1. County Legislative Full Meeting Public Notice 01-22-2024

Documents:

1-22-24 FULL LEG MEETING.PDF

County Legislative Full Meeting Legislative Calendar 01-22-2024

Documents:

1-22-24.PDF

3. County Legislative Full Meeting Proposed Ordinances 01-22-2024

Documents:

PROPOSED ORD. 1-24.PDF PROPOSED ORD. 2-24.PDF PROPOSED ORD. 3-24.PDF PROPOSED ORD. 4-24.PDF

4. County Legislative Full Meeting Proposed Resolutions 01-22-2024

Documents:

PROPOSED RES. 1-24.PDF PROPOSED RES. 2-24.PDF PROPOSED RES. 3-24.PDF PROPOSED RES. 5-24.PDF PROPOSED RES. 4-24.PDF PROPOSED RES. 6-24.PDF

5. Emergency Resolutions 1-22-24

Documents:

RES.6-A-24.PDF ER 1-24 FOR RES. 6-A-24.PDF

6. NCL_FULL LEGISLATURE Agenda

Documents:

NCL FULL LEGISLATURE 01.22.2024.PDF



PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT

THE NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE WILL HOLD A FULL SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE

ON

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024 AT 1:00PM

IN

THE PETER J. SCHMITT MEMORIAL LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER THEODORE ROOSEVELT EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BUILDING 1550 FRANKLIN AVENUE, MINEOLA, NEW YORK 11501

Mineola, NY As per the Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office, the Peter J. Schmitt Memorial Legislative Chamber has a maximum occupancy of 200 people.

Attendees who would like to address the Legislature must submit a slip to the Clerk's office staff. Public comment is limited to three minutes per person. At meetings of the full Legislature, public comment will be heard only during the pre-calendar public comment period and during public hearings that are on the calendar. At meetings of the Legislature's committees, there is no pre-calendar public comment period. Public comment will be heard on agenda items. Public comment on any item may be emailed to the Clerk of the Legislature at LegPublicComment@nassaucountyny.gov and will be made part of the formal record of this Legislative meeting.

The Nassau County Legislature is committed to making its public meetings accessible to individuals with disabilities and every reasonable accommodation will be made so that they can participate. Please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature at 571-4252, or the Nassau County Office for the Physically Challenged at 227-7101 or TDD Telephone No. 227-8989 if any assistance is needed. Every Legislative meeting is streamed live on http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/Legis/index.html

MICHAEL C. PULITZER Clerk of the Legislature Nassau County, New York

DATED: January 12, 2024 Mineola, NY

Scan the QR code to submit written public comment, which will be incorporated into the record of this meeting.



LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE FIRST MEETING FIRST MEETING OF 2024 MINEOLA, NEW YORK JANUARY 22, 2024 1:00PM PRESENTATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT 1:00PM LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR 2:00PM

As per the Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office, the Peter J. Schmitt Memorial Legislative Chamber has a maximum occupancy of 200 people.

Attendees who would like to address the Legislature must submit a slip to the Clerk's office staff. Public comment is limited to three minutes per person. At meetings of the full Legislature, public comment will be heard only during the pre-calendar public comment period and during public hearings that are on the calendar. At meetings of the Legislature's committees, there is no pre-calendar public comment period. Public comment will be heard on agenda items. Public comment on any item may be emailed to the Clerk of the Legislature at LegPublicComment@nassaucountyny.gov and will be made part of the formal record of this Legislative meeting.

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Scan the QR code to submit written public comment, which will be incorporated into the record of this meeting.



EVERY LEGISLATIVE MEETING IS STREAMED LIVE ON http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/Legis/index.html

1. **ORDINANCE NO. 1-2024**

AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTAL TO AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IN CONNECTION WITH TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD. 8-24(OMB)

2. **ORDINANCE NO. 2-2024**

AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTAL TO AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT. 9-24(OMB)

3. **ORDINANCE NO. 3-2024**

AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTAL TO AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE MEDICAL EXAMINER. 10-24(OMB)

<u>ORDINANCE NO. 4-2024</u>

4.

AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTAL TO AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT. 11-24(OMB)

5. **RESOLUTION NO. 1-2024**

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT MAKING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF NASSAU AND NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE, AS JOINT EMPLOYERS, AND THE NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE FEDERATION OF TEACHERS. 12-24(CE)

6. **RESOLUTION NO. 2-2024**

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE RELEASE OF THE SURETY BOND AND ESCROW DEPOSIT COVERING IMPROVEMENTS ON THE "MAP OF COUNTRY POINTE VILLAS AT EAST MEADOW" SITUATED IN EAST MEADOW, TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD, COUNTY OF NASSAU, NEW YORK. 2-24(PW)

7. **RESOLUTION NO. 3-2024**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO COMPROMISE AND SETTLE THE CLAIMS OF PLAINTIFF, AS SET FORTH IN THE ACTION ENTITLED PERALTA V. COUNTY OF NASSAU, ET AL. INDEX NO. 606439/2020, PURSUANT TO THE COUNTY LAW, THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAW OF NASSAU COUNTY AND THE NASSAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE. 3-24(AT)

8. **RESOLUTION NO. 4-2024**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO COMPROMISE AND SETTLE THE CLAIMS OF PLAINTIFF, AS SET FORTH IN THE ACTION ENTITLED *EIDEN V. COUNTY OF NASSAU*, *ET AL*.,CASE NO. 2:19- CV-03876-JMA-SIL, PURSUANT TO THE COUNTY LAW, THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAW OF NASSAU COUNTY AND THE NASSAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE. 4-24(AT)

9. **RESOLUTION NO. 5-2024**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO COMPROMISE AND SETTLE THE CLAIMS OF PLAINTIFF, AS SET FORTH IN THE ACTION ENTITLED KARZAI V. TOWN OF OYSTER BAY, ET AL., INDEX NO. 611904/2017, PURSUANT TO THE COUNTY LAW, THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAW OF NASSAU COUNTY AND THE NASSAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE. 6-24(AT)

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS HERETOFORE MADE WITHIN THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2024. 1-24(OMB)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Nassau County Executive has executed the following personal service contracts, copies of which are on file with the Office of the Clerk of the Nassau County Legislature. These contracts are listed for informational purposes only.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and City of Long Beach. RE: CDBG 49th Yr. \$330,000.00. ID#CQHI23000045.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Human Services and City of Glen Cove. RE: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT. \$18,968.00 ID#CQHS23000072.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Human Services and North Shore Central School District. RE: YDA- Education. \$98,654.00 ID#CQHS23000080

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Human Services and Mental Health Association of Nassau County, Inc. RE: OMH- Education and Training. \$287,901.00 ID#CQHS23000081.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Human Services and Mental Health Association of Nassau County, Inc. RE: OMH- Veterans Peer- to- Peer. \$245,000.00 ID#CQHS23000076.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of the Housing and Homeless Services and Circulo de la Hispanidad. RE: CDBG 49th Yr. \$40,000.00 ID#CQHI23000070.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and PGD Baldwin Commons, LLC. RE: HOME 46th Year. \$800,000.00 ID#CQHI23000048.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and Long Beach Latino Civic Association. RE: CDBG 49TH YR. \$20,000.00 ID#CQHI23000065.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and North Hempstead Community Development Agency. RE: CDBG-CV COVID-19 45th Yr. Amendment No. One . \$0.01 ID# CLHI23000016.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and Long Island Cares, Inc. RE: CDBG 49TH Yr. \$45,000.00 ID#CQHI23000039

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and Inc Village of Westbury. RE: CDBG- 49TH Yr. \$460,000.00 ID#CQHI23000042.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and Inc. Village of Lynbrook. RE: CDBG-49th Year. \$360,000,00. ID#CQHI23000044.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and The Safe Center LI, Inc. RE: ESG 49TH YEAR. \$95,000.00. ID#CQHI23000046.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and Incorporated Village of Rockville Center. RE: CDBG 49th Yr. \$205,000.00 ID#CQHI23000049.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and CENTRAL NASSAU GUIDANCE & COUNSELING SERVICES, INC. RE: CDBG 49TH YR. \$150,000.00 ID#CQHI23000051.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Human Services and EAC, INC. RE: OF A EAC B Amend 2. \$55,000.00 ID#CLHS23000068.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Human Services and EAC, Inc. RE: OF A EAC C-1, D, Amend 2. \$20,000.00. ID#CLHS23000069.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Human Services and East Meadow UFSD. RE: YDA – Education. \$57,982.00 ID#CQHS23000079.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and Family and Children's Association. RE: ESG 49TH YEAR. \$100,000.00 ID#CQHI23000037.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Human Services and Westbury UFSD. RE: YDA – Education. \$43,652.00 ID#CQHS23000078.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Board of Elections and All American Van Lines, Inc. RE: TRUCKING VOTING MACHINES AND ELECTION SUPPLIES. \$394,915.00 ID#CLEL23000001.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and The Interfaith Nutrition Network, Inc. RE: ESG 49TH YEAR. \$11,565.00 ID#CQHI23000061.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Board of Elections and Super Express Services Inc. DBA: The Moving Doctor. RE: TRUCKING VOTING MACHINES AND OTHER ELECTION SUPPLIES. \$172,263.40 ID#CLEL23000002

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Human Services and Sid Jacobson Jewish Community Center. RE: OF A Sid Jacobs East Hill E Amend 3. \$10,000.00 ID#CLHS23000064

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and Bethany House of Nassau County Corporation. RE: ESG 49TH YEAR. \$85,000.00 ID#CQHI23000059.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of housing and Homeless Services and Nicholas Center, Ltd. RE: CDBG 49TH YR. \$50,000.00 ID#CQHI23000058.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and Village of Valley Stream. RE: CDBG-49th Yr. \$50,000.00 ID#CQHI23000050.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and La Fuerza Unida, Inc. RE: CDBG – 49th Year. \$25,000.00 ID# 23000036.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and ACDS Inc. RE: CDBG 49TH YR. \$60,000.00 ID#CQHI23000038.

THE NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE WILL CONVENE THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024 at 1:00PM AND

FULL LEGISLATURE MEETING ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2024 AT 1:00PM

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 1- 2024

AN ORDINANCE supplemental to an appropriation ordinance in connection with the Traffic Safety Board.

WHEREAS, Nassau County has received certain revenue; and

WHEREAS, such funds have not been otherwise appropriated; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive, by communication dated January 3, 2024, addressed to the County Legislature, has recommended the appropriation of such funds not otherwise appropriated; and,

WHEREAS, this supplemental appropriation is within the scope of Section 307 of the County Government Law; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the County Legislature of the County of Nassau, as follows:

Section 1. There is hereby appropriated from monies not otherwise appropriated, the following sums of money to the following accounts:

BATS24000001

TOTAL	SOURCE OF FUNDS	APPROPRIATED TO:			
AMOUNT					
(in dollars)					
		FUND	DEPT.	OBJ.	AMOUNT
			CODE/Index	CODE	(in dollars)
53,500	NYS Governor's Traffic	GRT	TS	BB	53,500
	Safety Committee				

BATS24000002

TOTAL AMOUNT (in dollars)	SOURCE OF FUNDS	APPROPRIATED TO:			
		<u>FUND</u>	DEPT. CODE/Index	OBJ. CODE	AMOUNT (in dollars)
55,000	NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee	GRT	TS	НН	24,000
		GRT	TS	DE	31,000

BATS24000003

TOTAL	SOURCE OF FUNDS	APPROPRIATED TO:			
AMOUNT					
(in dollars)					
		FUND	DEPT.	OBJ.	AMOUNT
			CODE/Index	CODE	(in dollars)
40,000	NYS Handicapped	GRT	TS	DE	40,000
	Parking Surcharge Grant				

- § 2. This ordinance may be modified to allow for the correction of any mathematical and/or typographical errors subsequent to any approval and adoption of said ordinance without the necessity for a vote to be taken by the County Legislature or by the members of any Standing Committee of said Legislature if said ordinance is passed by the affirmative vote of a majority of said Legislature.
- § 3. It is hereby determined, pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 8 N.Y.E.C.L. Section 0101 et seq. and its implementing regulations, Part 617 of 6 N.Y.C.R.R., and Section 1611 of the County Government Law of Nassau County, that this supplemental appropriation ordinance is a "Type II" Action within the meaning of Section 617.5(c)(26) of 6 N.Y.C.R.R. ("routine or continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment"), and, accordingly, is of a class of actions which do not have a significant effect on the environment; and no further review is required.
 - § 4. This ordinance shall take effect immediately.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2 –2024

AN ORDINANCE supplemental to the annual appropriation ordinance in connection with the Health Department.

WHEREAS, Nassau County has received certain revenue; and

WHEREAS, such funds have not been otherwise appropriated; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive, by communication dated January 3, 2024, addressed to the County Legislature, has recommended the appropriation of such funds not otherwise appropriated; and,

WHEREAS, this supplemental appropriation is within the scope of Section 307 of the County Government Law; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the County Legislature of the County of Nassau, as follows:

Section 1. There is hereby appropriated from monies not otherwise appropriated, the following sums of money to the following accounts:

TOTAL AMOUNT (in dollars)	SOURCE OF FUNDS		APPROPRI	ATED TO	<u>:</u>
		FUND	DEPT.	OBJ.	AMOUNT
			CODE/Index	CODE	(in dollars)
70,928	NYS Office of Children and Family Services	GRT	HE	AA	39,095
		GRT	HE	AB	19,723
		GRT	HE	DD	12,110

§ 2. This ordinance may be modified to allow for the correction of any mathematical and/or typographical errors subsequent to any approval and adoption of said ordinance without the

necessity for a vote to be taken by the County Legislature or by the members of any Standing Committee of said Legislature if said ordinance is passed by the affirmative vote of a majority of said Legislature.

§ 3. It is hereby determined, pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 8 N.Y.E.C.L. Section 0101 et seq. and its implementing regulations, Part 617 of 6 N.Y.C.R.R., and Section 1611 of the County Government Law of Nassau County, that this supplemental appropriation ordinance is a "Type II" Action within the meaning of Section 617.5(c)(26) of 6 N.Y.C.R.R. ("routine or continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment"), and, accordingly, is of a class of actions which do not have a significant effect on the environment; and no further review is required.

§ 4. This ordinance shall take effect immediately.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 3 - 2024

AN ORDINANCE supplemental to the annual appropriation ordinance in connection with the Medical Examiner.

WHEREAS, Nassau County has received certain revenue; and

WHEREAS, such funds have not been otherwise appropriated; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive, by communication dated January 3, 2024, addressed to the County Legislature, has recommended the appropriation of such funds not otherwise appropriated; and,

WHEREAS, this supplemental appropriation is within the scope of Section 307 of the County Government Law; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the County Legislature of the County of Nassau, as follows:

Section 1. There is hereby appropriated from monies not otherwise appropriated, the following sums of money to the following accounts:

TOTAL AMOUNT (in dollars)	SOURCE OF FUNDS		APPROPRI	ATED TO	<u>:</u>
(iii donais)		<u>FUND</u>	DEPT. CODE/Index	OBJ. CODE	AMOUNT (in dollars)
57,433.00	NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services	GRT	ME	DD	31,433.00
		GRT	ME	BB	4,000.00
		GRT	ME	AA	22,000.00

- § 2. This ordinance may be modified to allow for the correction of any mathematical and/or typographical errors subsequent to any approval and adoption of said ordinance without the necessity for a vote to be taken by the County Legislature or by the members of any Standing Committee of said Legislature if said ordinance is passed by the affirmative vote of a majority of said Legislature.
- § 3. It is hereby determined, pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 8 N.Y.E.C.L. Section 0101 et seq. and its implementing regulations, Part 617 of 6 N.Y.C.R.R., and Section 1611 of the County Government Law of Nassau County, that this supplemental appropriation ordinance is a "Type II" Action within the meaning of Section 617.5(c)(26) of 6 N.Y.C.R.R. ("routine or continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment"), and, accordingly, is of a class of actions which do not have a significant effect on the environment; and no further review is required.
 - § 4. This ordinance shall take effect immediately.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 4 –2024

AN ORDINANCE supplemental to the annual appropriation ordinance in connection with the Office of Emergency Management.

WHEREAS, Nassau County has received certain revenue; and

WHEREAS, such funds have not been otherwise appropriated; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive, by communication dated January 3, 2024, addressed to the County Legislature, has recommended the appropriation of such funds not otherwise appropriated; and,

WHEREAS, this supplemental appropriation is within the scope of Section 307 of the County Government Law; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the County Legislature of the County of Nassau, as follows:

Section 1. There is hereby appropriated from monies not otherwise appropriated, the following sums of money to the following accounts:

BAEM24000001

TOTAL AMOUNT (in dollars)	SOURCE OF FUNDS		APPROPRI	ATED TO	<u>:</u>
(iii donars)		<u>FUND</u>	DEPT. CODE/Index	OBJ. CODE	AMOUNT (in dollars)
887,854	New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services	GRT	EM	BB	862,854
		GRT	EM	DE	25,000

BAEM24000002

TOTAL AMOUNT (in dollars)	SOURCE OF FUNDS	APPROPRIATED TO:			
		FUND	DEPT. CODE/Index	OBJ. CODE	AMOUNT (in dollars)
126,372	New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services	GRT	EM	BB	126,372

BAEM23000003

TOTAL AMOUNT (in dollars)	SOURCE OF FUNDS	APPROPRIATED TO:			
(iii donars)		<u>FUND</u>	DEPT. CODE/Index	OBJ. CODE	AMOUNT (in dollars)
2,061,400	Federal Emergency Management Agency	GRT	EM	DD	205,400
		GRT	EM	НН	1,856,000

- § 2. This ordinance may be modified to allow for the correction of any mathematical and/or typographical errors subsequent to any approval and adoption of said ordinance without the necessity for a vote to be taken by the County Legislature or by the members of any Standing Committee of said Legislature if said ordinance is passed by the affirmative vote of a majority of said Legislature.
- § 3. It is hereby determined, pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 8 N.Y.E.C.L. Section 0101 et seq. and its implementing regulations, Part 617 of 6 N.Y.C.R.R., and Section 1611 of the County Government Law of Nassau County, that this supplemental appropriation ordinance is a "Type II" Action within the meaning of Section 617.5(c)(26) of 6 N.Y.C.R.R. ("routine or continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment"), and, accordingly, is of a class of actions which do not have a significant effect on the environment; and no further review is required.
 - § 4. This ordinance shall take effect immediately.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 1 -2024

A RESOLUTION ratifying a Memorandum of Agreement making certain amendments to the collective bargaining agreement between the County of Nassau and Nassau Community College, as joint employers, and the Nassau Community College Federation of Teachers.

WHEREAS, the County of Nassau and Nassau Community College, as joint employers, entered into a Collective Bargaining Agreement (the "CBA") with the Nassau Community College Federation of Teachers (collectively, "the parties") which sets terms and conditions of employment for employees in the negotiating unit; and

WHEREAS, the parties have agreed to a Memorandum of Agreement (the "Memorandum of Agreement") dated November 3, 2023 (attached hereto) making certain amendments to the CBA; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the act of the County Executive for the County of Nassau and the Board of Trustees of Nassau Community College in executing the Memorandum of Agreement by and between the County of Nassau and Nassau Community College, as joint employers, and the Nassau Community College Federation of Teachers is hereby ratified.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2 - 2024

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE RELEASE OF THE SURETY BOND AND ESCROW DEPOSIT COVERING IMPROVEMENTS ON THE "MAP OF COUNTRY POINTE VILLAS AT EAST MEADOW" SITUATED IN EAST MEADOW, TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD, COUNTY OF NASSAU, NEW YORK.

WHEREAS, Beechwood Meadow East, LLC ("Applicant") submitted to the Nassau County Planning Commission ("Commission"), a request for a release of the surety bond and escrow deposit covering public improvements included on the approved subdivision map known as the "Map of Country Pointe Villas at East Meadow" in East Meadow, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York; and

WHEREAS, the Commission granted Final Subdivision Map approval on February 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the public improvements were secured by Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland by way of a surety bond in the amount of \$961,533.01 and cash escrow deposit held by Nassau County in the amount of \$31,799.99; and

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2022, the Applicant applied for reduction of the surety bond from \$961,533.01 to \$255,433.01; and

WHEREAS, on November 17, 2022, the Nassau County Planning Commission approved the reduction of the surety bond from \$961,533.01 to \$255,433.01; and

WHEREAS, on August 7, 2023, the Applicant applied for the release of the remaining amount on the surety bond in the amount of \$255,433.01 and cash escrow in the amount of \$31,799.99; and

WHEREAS, a final inspection of all bonded improvements for the Map of Country Pointe Villas at East Meadow subdivision was made by the Nassau County Department of Public Works ("DPW"), and DPW determined that all required public improvements were constructed and completed in accordance with the appropriate County codes, standards and specifications and recommended that the bond and escrow be released; and

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2023, the Nassau County Planning Commission conducted a duly noticed public hearing on the release of the surety bond and cash escrow; and

WHEREAS, the Commission, by resolution, has recommended that the Principal and Surety on the surety bond in the amount of \$255,433.01 should now be released from further liability thereunder and that the cash escrow deposit in the amount of \$31,799.99, plus interest and less administrative costs, if any, be released to said Principal; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Nassau County Legislature does hereby consent to and authorize the release of the Principal and Surety on the following Surety Bond and from any further liability thereunder, and further consents to the release to the Principal of the following Cash Escrow deposit:

Date of Resolution	Plat/location	<u>Principal</u>	Amount of Surety Bond	Cash Escrow <u>Deposit</u>
12/14/2023	"Map of Country Pointe Villas at East Meadow": East Meadow	Beechwood Meadow East, LLC	\$255,433.01	\$31,799.99

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 3 - 2024

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO COMPROMISE AND SETTLE THE CLAIMS OF PLAINTIFF, AS SET FORTH IN THE ACTION ENTITLED PERALTA V. COUNTY OF NASSAU, ET AL. INDEX NO. 606439/2020, PURSUANT TO THE COUNTY LAW, THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAW OF NASSAU COUNTY AND THE NASSAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

WHEREAS, Hector A. Mata Peralta (the "Plaintiff") commenced an action entitled *Peralta* v. County of Nassau, et al. Index No. 606439/2020 against the County of Nassau (the "County"), alleging damages for certain injuries, and the parties have agreed to settle said action for \$160,000 in full settlement of all possible claims the Plaintiff may have against the County arising from the circumstances upon which the action is based; and

WHEREAS, the County Attorney has caused an investigation and analysis to be made of the said action and as a result thereof recommends that it be settled in the amount set forth above; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Attorney be and is hereby authorized and directed to settle the said action in the amount as indicated above, provided that, if any payment arising from said action is to be made from the proceeds of a borrowing, that a bond ordinance to finance such settlement is adopted by this Legislature and any borrowing pursuant to such bond ordinance is approved by the Nassau County Interim Finance Authority, if such approval is required; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer be and is hereby authorized to pay a maximum of \$160,000 as directed by the County Attorney and thereupon delivered to the attorneys for Plaintiff upon receipt of a Settlement Agreement and Limited Release; and be it further

RESOLVED, that it is hereby determined, pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 8 N.Y.E.C.L. Section 0101 *et seq.* and its implementing regulations, Part 617 of 6 N.Y.C.R.R., and Section 1611 of the County Government Law of Nassau County, that this settlement is a "Type II" Action within the meaning of Section 617.5(c)(26) of 6 N.Y.C.R.R. and, accordingly, is of a class of actions which do not have a significant effect on the environment; and no further review is required.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 6 - 2024

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO COMPROMISE AND SETTLE THE CLAIMS OF PLAINTIFF, AS SET FORTH IN THE ACTION ENTITLED KARZAI V. TOWN OF OYSTER BAY, ET AL. INDEX NO. 611904/2017, PURSUANT TO THE COUNTY LAW, THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAW OF NASSAU COUNTY AND THE NASSAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

WHEREAS, Farishta Karzai (the "Plaintiff") commenced an action entitled *Karzai v. Town* of Oyster Bay, et al. Index No. 611904/2017 against the County of Nassau (the "County"), alleging damages for certain injuries, and the parties have agreed to settle said action for \$150,000 in full settlement of all possible claims the Plaintiff may have against the County arising from the circumstances upon which the action is based; and

WHEREAS, the County Attorney has caused an investigation and analysis to be made of the said action and as a result thereof recommends that it be settled in the amount set forth above; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Attorney be and is hereby authorized and directed to settle the said action in the amount as indicated above, provided that, if any payment arising from said action is to be made from the proceeds of a borrowing, that a bond ordinance to finance such settlement is adopted by this Legislature and any borrowing pursuant to such bond ordinance is approved by the Nassau County Interim Finance Authority, if such approval is required; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer be and is hereby authorized to pay a maximum of \$150,000 as directed by the County Attorney and thereupon delivered to the attorneys for Plaintiff upon receipt of a Settlement Agreement and Limited Release; and be it further

RESOLVED, that it is hereby determined, pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 8 N.Y.E.C.L. Section 0101 *et seq.* and its implementing regulations, Part 617 of 6 N.Y.C.R.R., and Section 1611 of the County Government Law of Nassau County, that this settlement is a "Type II" Action within the meaning of Section 617.5(c)(26) of 6 N.Y.C.R.R. and, accordingly, is of a class of actions which do not have a significant effect on the environment; and no further review is required.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 4 - 2024

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO COMPROMISE AND SETTLE THE CLAIMS OF PLAINTIFF, AS SET FORTH IN THE ACTION ENTITLED *EIDEN V. COUNTY OF NASSAU*, *ET AL.*, CASE NO. 2:19-CV-03876-JMA-SIL, PURSUANT TO THE COUNTY LAW, THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAW OF NASSAU COUNTY AND THE NASSAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

WHEREAS, Steven Eiden (the "Plaintiff") commenced an action entitled *Eiden v. County* of Nassau et al., Case No. 2:19-cv-03876-JMA-SIL against the County of Nassau (the "County"), alleging certain violations of his rights, and the parties have agreed to settle said action for \$295,000 in full settlement of all possible claims the Plaintiff may have against the County arising from the circumstances upon which the action is based; and

WHEREAS, the County Attorney has caused an investigation and analysis to be made of the said action and as a result thereof recommends that it be settled in the amount set forth above; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Attorney be and is hereby authorized and directed to settle the said action in the amount as indicated above, provided that, if any payment arising from said action is to be made from the proceeds of a borrowing, that a bond ordinance to finance such settlement is adopted by this Legislature and any borrowing pursuant to such bond ordinance is approved by the Nassau County Interim Finance Authority, if such approval is required; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer be and is hereby authorized to pay a maximum of \$295,000 as directed by the County Attorney and thereupon delivered to the attorneys for Plaintiff upon receipt of a Settlement Agreement and Limited Release; and be it further

RESOLVED, that it is hereby determined, pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 8 N.Y.E.C.L. Section 0101 *et seq.* and its implementing regulations, Part 617 of 6 N.Y.C.R.R., and Section 1611 of the County Government Law of Nassau County, that this settlement is a "Type II" Action within the meaning of Section 617.5(c)(26) of 6 N.Y.C.R.R. and, accordingly, is of a class of actions which do not have a significant effect on the environment; and no further review is required.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 6-2024

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS HERETOFORE MADE WITHIN THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2024

WHEREAS, the County Executive, by communication dated January 2, 2024 addressed to the County Legislature, has advised that a transfer of appropriations heretofore made has been requested in order to provide funds to meet certain expenditures authorized within the budget for the year 2024; and

WHEREAS, the transfer has been reviewed and approved by the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of the County Executive; and

WHEREAS, the said transfer is known as BTCW24000003 as follows:

BOARD TRANSFER NO. BTCW24000003

	CODE	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
FROM	ES ARP 3000 - 33933	American Rescue Plan – General Reserves	\$ 188,403,440.00
	ES ARP 3010 – 6F60F	American Rescue Plan – ARP Direct Payments	\$ 51,143,625.00
	ES ARP 3101 – DE548	American Rescue Plan – Contractual Services	\$ 10,000,000.00
	ES ARP 3105 – DE548	American Rescue Plan – Contractual Services	\$ 10,000,000.00
	ES ARP 3145 – DE548	American Rescue Plan – Contractual Services	\$ 1,000,000.00
	ES ARP 3102 – DE548	American Rescue Plan – Contractual Services	\$ 900,000.00
	ES ARP 3160 – DE548	American Rescue Plan – Contractual Services	\$ 815,571.06
	TOTAL		\$ 262,262,636.06
<u>TO</u>	ES ARP 3000 – LB611	American Rescue Plan – Transfer to General Fund	\$ 222,262,636.06
	ES ARP 3000 – LS60S	American Rescue Plan – Transfer to SSW	\$ 25,000,000.00
	ES ARP 3180 – DE547	American Rescue Plan – Contractual Services	\$ 15,000,000.00
	TOTAL		\$ 262,262,636.06

and;

WHEREAS, the said transfers of appropriations are recommended by the County Executive in said communication and are within the scope of Section 307 of the County Government Law of Nassau County; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Legislature does hereby authorize the said transfers of appropriations heretofore made within the budget for the year 2024, as hereinabove set forth; and be it further

RESOLVED that this resolution may be modified to allow for the correction of any mathematical and/or typographical errors subsequent to any approval and adoption of said resolution without the necessity for a vote to be taken by the County Legislature or by the members of any Standing Committee of said Legislature if said resolution is passed by the affirmative vote of a majority of said Legislature; and be it further

RESOLVED, that it is hereby determined, pursuant to the provisions of the State

Environmental Quality Review Act, 8 N.Y.E.C.L. Section 0101 et seq. and its implementing regulations, Part 617 of 6 N.Y.C.R.R., and Section 1611 of the County Government Law of Nassau County, that this budget transfer is a "Type II" Action within the meaning of Section 617.5(c)(26) of 6 N.Y.C.R.R. ("routine or continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment"), and, accordingly, is a class of actions which does not have a significant effect on the environment; and no further review is required.

RESOLUTION NO. 6-A -2024

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF VERONICA RENTA IRWIN AS A JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU FOR THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT, PURSUANT TO SECTION 21(D) OF ARTICLE 6 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 21(d) of Article 6 of the Constitution of the State of New York, the Honorable Bruce Blakeman, County Executive, has transmitted to this Legislature written notification of the appointment of Veronica Renta Irwin as Judge of the District Court for the Second Judicial District for a term ending December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, such appointment is subject to confirmation by this Legislature; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the said appointment of Veronica Renta Irwin as Judge of the District Court is hereby confirmed, effective immediately; and be it further

RESOLVED, that it is hereby determined, pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 8 N.Y.E.C.L. section 0101 et seq. and its implementing regulations, Part 617 of 6 N.Y.C.R.R., and Section 1611 of the County Government Law of Nassau County, that this appointment is a "Type II" Action within the meaning of Section 617.5(c)(20) of 6 N.Y.C.R.R. ("routine or continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment"), and, accordingly, is of a class of actions which do not have a significant effect on the environment; and no further review is required.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION NO. 1-2024

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION DECLARING AN EMERGENCY FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION UPON A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF VERONICA RENTA IRWIN AS A JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU FOR THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT, PURSUANT TO SECTION 21(D) OF ARTICLE 6 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

WHEREAS, the Honorable Bruce Blakeman, County Executive, has submitted to this County Legislature a written recommendation dated January 17, 2024, pursuant to the provisions of the County Government Law of Nassau County; and

WHEREAS, the said recommendation refers to an emergency resolution declaring an emergency for immediate action upon a Resolution confirming the appointment by the County Executive of Veronica Renta Irwin as a Judge of the District Court of the County of Nassau for the Second Judicial District, pursuant to Section 21(d) of Article 6 of the Constitution of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the said recommendation is that the County Legislature adopt a resolution declaring that an emergency exists in Nassau County the nature of which is to take immediate action upon the aforesaid resolution; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the County Legislature hereby declares that an emergency exists within Nassau County, the nature of which is to consider and to take immediate action upon the aforesaid resolution before this Legislature.

	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 01.22.2023
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3	NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE
4	FULL LEGISLATURE MEETING
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6	*****
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8	HOWARD J. KOPEL, PRESIDING OFFICER
9	
10	*****
11	
12	*****
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14	County Executive and Legislative Building
15	1550 Franklin Avenue
16	Mineola, New York
17	*****
18	Monday, January 22, 2024
19	2:19 p.m.
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23	TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER
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25	
	TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-35161

1	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 01.22.2023
1	NC FOLL LEGISLATURE 01.22.2023
2	LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL
3	Presiding Officer
4	7th Legislative District
5	***
6	LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT
7	Alternate Presiding Officer
8	13th Legislative District
9	***
10	LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI, JR.
11	Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer
12	15th Legislative District
13	
14	***
15	LEGISLATOR SCOTT DAVIS
16	1st Legislative District
17	***
18	LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE
19	2nd Legislative District
20	***
21	LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES
22	3rd Legislative District
23	***
24	LEGISLATOR PATRICK MULLANEY
25	4th Legislative District

____TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516 _____2 __

NC FULL LEGISLATURE 01.22.2023 1 2 LEGISLATOR SETH KASLOW 3 5th Legislative District * * * 4 5 LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE 6th Legislative District 6 7 *** 8 LEGISLATOR JOHN J. GIUFFRE 9 8th Legislative District *** 10 11 LEGISLATOR SCOTT STRAUSS 12 9th Legislative District *** 13 LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP 14 15 10th Legislative District * * * 16 17 LEGISLATOR MICHAEL GIANGREGORIO 18 12th Legislative District 19 20 LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR, III 21 14th Legislative District 22 23 LEGISLATOR ARNOLD W. DRUCKER 24 16th Legislative District

_____TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516 _____3 =

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	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 01.22.2023
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2	LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER
3	17th Legislative District
4	***
5	LEGISLATOR SAMANTHA GOETZ
6	18th Legislative District
7	***
8	LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY
9	19th Legislative District
10	***
11	MICHAEL PULITZER
12	Clerk of the Legislature
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14	JAMES DARCY, ESQ.
15	Attorney for Clerk of the Legislature
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____TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516 _____4 __

NC FULL LEGISLATURE 01.22.2023

1	
2	TOP COPS:
3	Eric Spaulding
4	Michael Caldarera
5	
6	PUBLIC COMMENT:
7	
8	Richard Clolery
9	Jaques Province
10	Susan Lubvano
11	Dimitrios Giouzepis
12	David Tellerman
13	Gayle Kligman
14	Larry Johnston
15	Linda Roeder
16	John O'Shea
17	Doron Spleen
18	Judy Cataldo
19	Sarah Golden
20	Stephanie Chase
21	Robin Garrison Bolling
22	Carmen Lloyd
23	Rhenaye Hornsby
24	Alisa Samuels-Stein
25	Mary Ellen Kreye

______TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516 ______5 __

NC	FIII.T.	LEGISLATURE	01	22	2023
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1	
2	Public Comment Continued
3	
4	John Gross
5	Jerry Kornbluth
6	Paul Gibson
7	Jeanine Maynard
8	Christiano Marcello
9	Fenol LaRock
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	TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-35166

	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 01.22.2023
1	NC FOLL LEGISLATURE 01.22.2025
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3	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: We're
4	going to get started and I'd ask
5	Legislator and former Marine Corporal
6	Mullaney to lead us in the Pledge of
7	Allegiance.
8	(Whereupon, the Pledge of
9	Allegiance is said by all.)
10	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.
11	Now, Mr. Pulitzer, would you please call
12	the roll?
13	CLERK PULITZER: Thank you Presiding
14	Officer.
15	Deputy Presiding Officer Thomas
16	McKevitt?
17	LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.
18	CLERK PULITZER: Alternate Deputy
19	Presiding Officer John Ferretti?
20	LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.
21	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Siela
22	Bynoe?
23	LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.
24	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Carrie
25	A. Solages?
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____TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516 _____7 =

	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 01.22.2023
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2	LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.
3	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Debra
4	Mule?
5	LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.
6	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator C.
7	William Gaylor, III?
8	LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.
9	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator John
10	Giuffre?
11	LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Here.
12	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Mazi
13	Pilip?
14	LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.
15	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Scott
16	Davis?
17	LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Present.
18	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator James
19	Kennedy?
20	LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.
21	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Patrick
22	Mullaney?
23	LEGISLATOR MULLANEY: Here.
24	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Seth
25	Koslow?

____TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516 ______8 _

1	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 01.22.2023
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2	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Scott
3	Strauss?
4	LEGISLATOR STRAUSS: Present.
5	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Arnold
6	Drucker?
7	LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.
8	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Rose
9	Marie Walker?
10	LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.
11	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Samantha
12	Goetz?
13	LEGISLATOR GOETZ: Here.
14	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Michael
15	Giangregorio?
16	CLERK PULITZER: Minority Leader
17	Delia DeRiggi-Whitton?
18	LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Here.
19	CLERK PULITZER: Presiding Officer
20	Howard Kopel?
21	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Here.
22	CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum,
23	sir.
24	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: As is the
25	custom over here, we will start out with
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____TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516 _____9 __

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a presentation we call Top Cops. Come on forward, please.

MR. SHANAHAN: Good afternoon. On December 15th, 2023, Police Officer Lopez from the Fourth Precinct was on patrol in a shopping center of Oceanside. He was approached by an employee of Sephora. PO Lopez was advised that two males just committed a larceny from Sephora. Officer Lopez immediately put out a notification on the radio, and Officers Caldarera and Spaulding started responding to the area to begin canvassing. Officer Caldarera observed a white BMW on Oceanside Road. He recognized his vehicle as a subject vehicle from a grand larceny that occurred two days in the past. Officer Caldarera activated his emergency lights and siren and conducted a stop of that vehicle. He transmitted his location and Officer Spaulding responded.

The Sephora employees then came to the scene of the car stop and positively identified the two subjects in the

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vehicle as the men that committed the loss in earlier. The employee also identified all three subjects as the individuals that committed two other larcenies from the store. All three subjects were placed under arrest. Their vehicle also contained proceeds from the larceny.

All three subjects were charged with grand larceny. Five cases countywide were closed out, totaling approximately \$40,000 in stolen merchandise. Thanks to PO Lopez putting himself in the area where larcenys were being committed, as well as Officers Caldarera and Spaulding's quick response and knowledge, they were able to take these felons off the street. This is why the Nassau County PBA is proud to announce Officers Caldarera, Spaulding and Lopez as Legislative Top Cops for January of 2024. Thank you.

(Whereupon, applause.)

COMMISSIONER RYDER: Good afternoon.

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First of all, congratulations and welcome. It's nice to see a whole bunch of new faces up there. I had to look around the room to the game playing field down.

You know, it's a larceny arrest, misdemeanor. Not the biggest thing in the world, right? Except for this individual had it five times. Five times that he was caught. Five times that we can charge him with. Not the other, probably 20 or 30 times that he committed these crimes, these quality of life crimes that our residents expect us to put a stop on. And it's not easy. And the fact that our cops use the intelligence that they're given, put themselves in the right spot to be there when these crimes are committed, that's good police work day in and day out. If it wasn't for the great work that they do on quality of life, we' be looking at a different scenario here in Nassau County. But our cops go out there day in and day out. They get the best

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intelligence. They do that because of the support that we get from this Body. We thank you for that support, and we thank you for giving us these young cops that are out there doing this job every day.

(Whereupon, applause.)

OFFICER SPAULDING: I quess I'm just humbled to be here, humbled to be able to serve our community. And I'm happy that what we did that day and what we do in the future makes a difference. And thank you for allowing us to be here and recognizing us.

> PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you. Legislator Mullaney.

LEGISLATOR MULLANEY: Yes. Just to echo what the Commissioner just said, I give you guys, a good heads up. confidence to approach the car. A real big point of even recognizing the vehicle that had previously been in an accident, I think is is commendable. Nice job doing that.

Also on top of that, \$40,000 in

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merchandise collectively is a lot of money. So that and last I'll say is just, thank you, not just for what you do with what you guys are willing to do every day. I think that that's the bigger thing. The fact that you're willing even just to step up to the plate is commendable. Every tour that you work, you make that same commitment. So again, thank you.

LEGISLATOR MULE: Thank you, Presiding Officer.

Legislator Mullaney and I represent Oceanside, and so I, too, want to express my gratitude to you for helping to keep not only that community safe, but all of our communities safe.

I was struck by the \$40,000 that's that's amazing. As the Commissioner said, that might only be the tip of the iceberg, but we got them, and you got them, and that's great. And we are so appreciative. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Legislator

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Pilip.

LEGISLATOR PILIP: Thank you.

I also would like to thank each one of you for everything you do to protect our county. Every single day you are out there to protect us and to create a safe county. And we as elected officials will be there for you. We will support you and we salute you for your dedication and hard work. Thank you.

LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: As the third legislator that represents Oceanside, I'd be remiss if I didn't say something.

Quality of life matters and pursuit of those crimes matters because it often leads to bigger and better things; 40,000 in this case, we've heard last month, I think it was handguns recovered in an incident, drugs. We want you to keep doing what you're doing. Be tough on crime. Our constituents are continually complaining about these petty little crimes and how they affect the community. It's just plain and simple; good police

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work.

I know the Commissioner has got your back. Keep doing what you're doing, all right. I know the constituents really appreciate it. So God bless you all and keep it up. Thanks.

LEGISLATOR GIANGREGORIO: Good afternoon.

On a different topic, I would just like to take a moment to thank Commissioner Ryder, our police officers and the special units that responded to the swatting incident at Newbridge Road School last week.

Your swift and thorough response was outstanding. You helped ease fears of a community and thank goodness it was unfounded. After what the community experienced, you went above and beyond.

Thank you for holding the police interactive day at the school. The photos were unbelievable. The students and this staff, I'm sure, were beyond grateful as a lot of the responses that I was able to

1	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 01.22.2023
1	
2	read.
3	This is the reason why Nassau County
4	Police Department is the finest police
5	department in the country. So thank you
6	for all you do.
7	(Whereupon, applause.)
8	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: So why
9	don't you all come up for a quick
10	picture?
11	(Whereupon, citation
12	presented. Photos taken.)
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____TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516 _____17 ___

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay, now we have a period of public comment. I know many of you are here on a specific item. And we're going to call that call those when we get to the item.

Let's start out with Richard Clolery. And by the way, comments are limited to three minutes. So please make sure that you stay within the time. Richard, are you here?

MR. CLOLERY: Greetings, members of the Legislature. I, Richard Clolery, have come once again to plead for the safety of pedestrians and also to increase the bus funding.

Lately, I've been hearing nothing but horror stories about people getting hit by cars, whether it's distracted, accidental, or drunk or whatever. Let me ask you a question, I'd like an answer: When you look at us, do you look at us as people who pay taxes, who support this county in our own ways? Or do you view as a less than human? Come on. I'd like an

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answer. Please.

(Whereupon, no verbal

response.)

MR. CLOLERY: Be that as it may, I feel that too many lives are being taken by drunk driving. Look, I get it. This place is a car culture. But cars come with a responsibility and people have forgotten this, whether they're on their phones there or distracted or drunk or simply out of their minds.

We need to enforce our traffic laws, the ones we have on the books, and create new ones.

Also, we need to create alternatives because gas prices are not going to get any cheaper. And we need in some places in Nassau County that we can't reach. Like Jericho, for instance. I have a doctor who's up there. I have to arrange for a lift to get up there because there's no buses that go up to Jericho.

I would like to increase funding to places that need buses but don't prefer

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fixed routes, can have an alternative rideshare, you know? Anyway. Thank you. Have a good day.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Next is Jacques Province.

MR. PROVINCE: Good afternoon. My name is Jacques Province. I'm here representing HAFLI. That stands for Haitian American family of Long Island.

HAFLI is a non-profit organization, 501-C3, that has been working as a bridge in facilitating acculturation process of Haitian American in Long Island.

HAFLI, in its mission, is to facilitate the adaptation of the Haitian American community in Nassau County on Long Island, and has been providing direct and indirect services to individuals, families, and service providers for nearly 25 years, and it assist also families with navigating social service problem in the school system and language barriers.

HAFLI provides counseling to

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families in need. HAFLI is working in partnership with other institution to fulfill its mission.

Therefore, to end the short words that I have to say, HAFLI needs funding to continue its service to the Nassau County residents.

I thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you. Susan Lubrano.

MS. LUBRANO: My name is Susan Lubrano. I'm the owner of Therapy Services of Greater New York. We have occupational therapists and physical therapists in our clinic. Unfortunately, in the past three years or more, two years, I would say, it's almost impossible to hire therapists. You put an ad out, and the children from the ages of 3 to 5 years old are not getting treatment. It's really sad. They have neurological problems.

I've been a therapist for 40 years, and the price has been the same that we

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pay the therapists, or the rate has been the same. In addition to that, the therapists are going to New York City to work because the rate is higher.

I don't know what to say, but I have a waitlist of over 15 children who are not getting services. It's been too long. It's been really too long. And to watch children not get their services is really sad. The therapists just can't afford to stay.

So that's what I have to say. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you. Dimitrios Giuseppes.

MR. GIUSEPPES: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Dimitrios Giuseppes. I'm honored to stand before you as the assistant director at Metro Therapy. With 25 years of dedicated service in this field, I've witnessed the evolving landscape of therapy, holding various roles that have led me to my current position.

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Today, I'm here to help address the pressing issue demanding our immediate attention: The critical shortage of therapists. The demand for their services has reached unprecedented levels, yet we face a shortage that poses a significant challenge to meeting the needs of our community. As related service providers graduate, students are burdened by financial obligations from student loans to mortgages make it increasingly difficult for them to prioritize the crucial work of therapy.

Currently, service providers are not incentivized to stay beyond their own sense of dedication and eventually succumb to economic responsibilities. The disparities in reimbursement rates set 27 years ago have created a situation where providers are forced to make difficult choices merely to make ends meet. This is not a matter of whether action is needed, it's about how we address this challenge.

I propose the solution aim to both

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support our current providers and invite new ones into the field. Let's explore increasing and equalizing the reimbursement rates in Nassau County across the field of early childhood. This strategic move will encourage providers residing in Nassau to serve within the county, and those in Suffolk will be drawn to Nassau due to the higher rate. By doing this, we not only establish equality among providers, but also create an incentive for new therapists to contribute to the well-being of Nassau County's children. Furthermore, we have the unique opportunity to set a precedent for neighboring counties encouraging them to follow suit.

To ensure the sustainability of this initiative, I recommend a regular review every four years. This periodic assessment will enable us to adapt to changing circumstances, preventing our children from facing the same challenges 27 years from now.

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In conclusion, I urge you to consider this proposal seriously. By equalizing reimbursement rates, we foster a sense of equality, attract new providers, set a precedent for neighboring counties, and ultimately safeguard the well-being of our families of Long Island.

Thank you for your time and sincerely hope your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

> PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you. David Tellerman.

MR. TELLERMAN: Hello, my name is David Tellerman and I am the director at New York Therapy. I'm here to discuss the crisis that we are facing with the preschool special education population. These children receive the services of speech, occupational and physical therapy. Unfortunately, hundreds of children are not receiving these services for one reason only. And that is, Nassau County has not increased the rates for 27

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years; 27 years. And what industry would this ever be acceptable? Unfortunately, in this industry, it's a special needs children that are paying the price for this.

Providers of these services are leaving the industry in droves. They have taken jobs working with other populations in which to pay is significantly higher. These providers have made it clear that they cannot afford to work for such a low rate. It is not a rate that is sustainable for families to live on.

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, with inflation, the rate of \$40, which was established 27 years ago, is now equal to \$79.49. This is what it should be today. It has not moved, again, in 27 years. We are nowhere near this at this point. How many of you would be willing to work today for the pay that you received in 1996?

There are 62 counties in New York State. Some of these counties pay as high

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as \$80 per session. At least a dozen counties have a rate of \$70 or higher. Nassau County's rate of \$40 per session is at the bottom of the list, which you can see in this picture.

> (Whereupon, referring to his poster presentation.)

MR. TELLERMAN: There is truly no lower rate in the entire state. This needs to be changed immediately, and only Nassau County can make this change. Nassau County should be a leader for special education children.

As a top provider in special education, New York Therapy is working with razor thin margins and in many cases we are losing money. This is unsustainable. Many agencies have stopped providing special education preschool services due to these rates. When more agencies follow suit, this would be catastrophic for the special needs preschool children in Nassau County. When these children are not receiving their

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services, it means that they are not receiving their legal mandates.

Imagine that you learn for the first time that your child was diagnosed with autism, and that there were no providers available to help your child. This can only be described as devastation for a family.

Preschool special education needs a significant change in the rates and not a quick fix small change. We need to attract the providers that have left the industry. This can only be done with a rate change that reflects the fact that there have been no changes in 27 years.

We are truly in crisis mode. Please make the long overdue change today in order for the Preschool Special Education program to survive.

Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you, Gayle Kligman.

MS. KLIGMAN: My name is Gayle Kligman, executive chairman of Family of

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Kids and founder of Kids Therapy Services. Two weeks ago, my colleagues, directors of special education, therapists and parents, stood before this legislature to share the state of preschool special education in this county. I will be brief and just provide very important data for you to consider.

I have been providing these services to the County for over 25 years and have never experienced the critical junction we are, we are at right now. We currently have over 200 children waiting to be assigned therapists, and we are just in January when we begin to see the largest number of new referrals and children aging out of early intervention in need of preschool services. Therapists have abandoned the preschool program due to the lower reimbursement rate.

Data show from NYSED that again, as we just said, Nassau County is the lowest in the state. Utilizing, as we just said, also the CPI from 1996, when the last

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increase was given, the \$40 rate should now be \$79.47 for a 30 minute session. I am submitting this information -- and I have packets to share with all of you -along with the sheet showing how Westchester County, just recently in September of this last year, raised their rates. We have no difficulty attracting and retaining therapists in that area.

Statistics show that for every dollar spent, \$7 is saved in the future. The burden will then be placed on local school districts if these children do not receive services. A significant and timely raise in rates is the only way we will bring therapists back and attract new ones and retain the ones we have.

It is my understanding that monies that were supposed to be used for services in the Recovery Act are now being earmarked for things such as entertainment celebrating Nassau's anniversary. There is no better way to recognize Nassau history than by making

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sure we do the right thing for its future: Its children.

At this time, we look to each of you and the constituents you serve to do right by these at risk children and their families. Time is running out.

Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you. Larry Johnston.

MR. JOHNSTON: Good afternoon. My name is Larry Johnston, and my wife and I are the owners of New York Therapy Placement Services.

NYTPS has been servicing special needs children in Nassau County since 1986. In that time, we have serviced thousands of children in the preschool age range, but we're at a crossroads now.

Isaac Newton's third Law of motion states that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. Nassau County now raising reimbursement rates for related services in a preschool arena for 27 years and currently anchoring the

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bottom rate of all New York State's 62 counties, has caused children aged 3 to 5, in many cases, either not to receive services or to have their services significantly delayed. This is a direct result of the County not having to manage this program robustly. That falls under their sole purview. There's no deflection here. It's not a New York State issue. It's not a federal government issue. It's a Nassau County issue.

Nassau County is solely responsible for setting rates and has abdicated its responsibility for this program. This is a self-created problem. Therapists are making informed decisions to find other work in areas outside the preschool services where they are paid a wage, reflecting their level of education and skill set. You have not made them valued partners. You've actually pushed them away. Those providers who live in Nassau and border Queens and Suffolk have made the informed decision to treat there

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instead of Nassau because their rates are higher, even though they are still below the state average. Those providers living in adjacent counties have also decided to no longer service in Nassau County.

In addition, new graduates are being steered away from pediatrics by local universities here on the island because of these bottom dwelling rates, causing an even worse shortage of providers.

As an agency, we've only been able to strategically manage the economics in the back end of this program because of the high volume of work we produce. This is no longer a viable program to manage as currently configured. Unless significant action is taken by this Body or other decision makers within the county, this program will collapse very quickly. Without your help and assistance, you will send a clear message that special needs children in Nassau County are not worth the time or effort. There is truly very little diligence to

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do. In fact, I'll sum it up for you in three words: 27 years.

By raising these reimbursement rates to reflect the inflated cost of living, Nassau County would be able to start the process of recapturing those lost providers and drive down the extended delays and servicing these children.

We're all here today, including you, because we have a passion for what we do. But passion alone does not pay the high cost of living on Long Island. Nor does it help a company sustainability to employ hundreds of workers in the area. Nassau County is 35% below the State's average reimbursement rate for this program. That is unacceptable. You and those who work alongside you have the ability to correct this situation in short order.

I respectfully request that a sincere and serious effort be undertaken to do so. We're always willing to meet offline to discuss the matter.

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Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Roeder.

MS. ROEDER: Hi. Good afternoon. My name is Linda Roeder. I would like to talk about preschool related services in Nassau County. Preschool related services for those who don't know, are mainly services provided by licensed speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and licensed social workers.

I am the mother of four. My youngest son has autism. I have six grandchildren. My five year old grandson still receives speech therapy; he has since he was two. I can personally attest to the benefits and success of these services.

For over 20 years, I have been the Business Manager for Kids Therapy Services, an agency that provides preschool services. I know there has been no increase for preschool related services in over 27 years.

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My first few years with Kids

Therapy, I served as the evaluation

coordinator, speaking with hundreds of

parents. I can tell you from personal

experience and from talking with parents,

one of the most difficult things for a

parent to hear is that their child has a

disability, or is not developing the same

as other children. For some parents, this

is a shock. For others, it is a painful

confirmation of what they already knew.

After a child is evaluated, there is

strengths and weaknesses are discussed

and if warranted, an Individualized

a meeting at the district where the

Education Plan is created. Services are

granted based on the child's needs.

Parents are assured that there are

services that can help their child. My

family was very lucky. My son and

grandson received the services they need,

but for many children they are not so

lucky. They are waiting weeks or months

for services to begin. Some children

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never received the services they so greatly need because there are not enough providers. They have to wait until they enter kindergarten. And for most of these children, this means that their developmental delay will be worse, not better, as they enter kindergarten.

For over 20 years, I have had the honor and privilege of working with some of the most hard working, devoted and dedicated professionals in Nassau County. I have seen hundreds of children come through our doors and learn to talk, walk, hold a crayon and basic other childhood milestones that most parents take for granted that their children will be able to do. Why is it so hard to find providers? Because they are leaving preschool services and going to work in school districts or other facilities where they are making so much more money. And who can blame them? They have to provide for their selves and their families as well.

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I would ask that as you look at the

budget and consider an increase for these services, you consider what it costs you

to live in 1997. How much did you earn in

1997? Could you afford to pay your 2024

bills with your 1997 paycheck? Neither

can they. Yet this is what is expected of

them.

I would also like to say that I

don't know how many children receive

Medicaid, but I do know that Medicaid

reimburses Nassau County for the services

that those children receive.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: John

O'Shea.

MR. O'SHEA: Good afternoon

everyone.

My name is John O'Shea and I am the

president and co-founder of the Ryan

Patrick O'Shea Foundation. I am here

today to ask the members of the

Legislature to consider allocating funds

from the American Rescue Plan to improve

mental health awareness and help end the

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threats of suicide in the County of Nassau.

As I am sure you are all aware, suicide is a major public health crisis, and it will take all of us to end the threats of suicide.

My wife and I founded the Ryan Patrick O'Shea Foundation five years ago, when we lost our 18 year old son to suicide. Sadly, we didn't understand that Ryan and so many others don't have the tools they need to navigate the struggles they will encounter during their lives. So many people, young and old, don't understand that they are not alone in their struggles. The mission of the Ryan Patrick Foundation is to increase mental health awareness and encourage education to prevent suicide.

For the past five years, one of the ways we have been advocating for suicide prevention is to fund a program called Sources of Strength in our local schools. This program offers hope, health, and

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strength to all that become involved in it. The Source of Strength program has been unifying and opening the lines of communication in schools and in the families of those involved with it. It is a data driven, evidence based program that is presented by certified trainers. It is endorsed by New York State and many other states in the country.

To date, with the support of many generous supporters, the Ryan Patrick O'Shea Foundation has been able to fund this program in nine Nassau County school districts, and it has had positive impact on thousands of students and staff in those districts. This is a life saving and life altering program.

A little more than a week ago, I had an opportunity to address guidance counselors from 65 local school districts. The message from all of them was, how can we get this program into our schools? Unfortunately, our foundation will not be able to fund this program for

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many more school districts in Nassau County. Fortunately, you, the members of this legislative body can make this happen for those schools that desperately need your help to get this life saving and life altering program in.

Please consider allocating some of the American Rescue Plan funds to rescue the students of Nassau County from the depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation that far too many are suffering with.

The Ryan Patrick O'Shea Foundation pledges to work with all of you to make this happen in schools across Nassau County. The Ryan Patrick O'Shea Foundation stands to make nothing from this request, except to promote the best possible mental health for the students of Nassau County.

You have the opportunity to make a tremendous difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of students by helping them understand that they do not

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stand alone, that all of you here stand with them.

If I could ask one more thing, could you consider putting "988" in your resources for mental health in the County website?

Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you, Mr. O'Shea. Condolences on your loss.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Doron Spleen.

MR. SPLEEN: Good afternoon members of the legislation. My name is Doron Spleen, and I'm the founder and executive director of Morrison Mentors, a non-profit organization dedicated to increase in educational opportunities for underserved students and their families.

Established in 2012, Morrison Mentors was named in honor of my mentor and tutor, Arthur Morrison, a Hempstead resident, educator and outstanding community member who provided free tutoring and mentorship to Nassau County

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youth.

Our vision here at Morrison Mentors is to engineer a self-sustaining community model that embraces STEM as a career pathway out of poverty. Our programs not only aim to improve student STEM literacy and develop 21st century skills, but also to cultivate their STEM identity by helping them develop a sense of belonging, confidence, interests, and academic achievement in STEM.

An integral part of our organizations success is our high school and collegiate STEM Apprenticeship and Workforce Development program. Through this program, we recruit students 14 years and older to learn, train, and reteach our STEM curriculum to their peers throughout Nassau County. What better way to show that you've learned something than to reteach it to someone else?

Since the pandemic, we've noticed a severe decline in employment readiness

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traits among our young adults than ever

before. A majority of our young adults

lack consistency, self-awareness,

punctuality, presentation, preparedness,

basic hygiene habits, grit, confidence,

initiative, appropriateness, financial

literacy, and most importantly,

analytical reasoning. What is consistent

is that these same workforce deficiencies

can be found in the growing number of

individuals who are more interested in

consuming technology, rather than using

technology to create. And this is a

problem.

With STEM jobs expected to grow

10.5% between 2020 and 2030, compared to

7.5% growth for non-STEM jobs, it is

essential for us as a county to groom the

next generation of innovators and problem

solvers.

For that reason, I'm in full support

of the legislation to move the American

Rescue Plan funding into general funds.

These funds can be utilized by Nassau

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County organizations like Morrison Mentors to support, inspire, and empower our young adults to pursue career pathways that will enable them to thrive and support their families here in Nassau County.

Thank you for your time.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Judy Cataldo.

MS. CATALDO: Hi, my name is Judy Cataldo, and I'm representing, the Elmont Cultural Center and Mimi Johnson, who is sick with the flu. So she asked me if I would just read some statements.

She wanted to clarify, and the community wants to clarify that we understand that there was going to be funding that was directly going to be able to be used by the communities. And I understand that there were federal funds that weren't used, that were supposed to be going to enhance the communities. And is that the funding that we're talking about today?

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: By the way, just everyone should understand this is not a question and answer.

MS. CATALDO: Oh, that's okay. I just wanted to make sure that I wasn't talking in inaccurate terms, that's all just clarifying.

And I understand that the funding is being withheld. And I just wanted to clarify again, open question that was, was this the funding that was supposed to be given to the communities in 2023, or are we talking about the forthcoming for 2024?

The reason that I was asked to speak today is because I understand that the communities were going to be using these funds to have a Juneteenth celebration, which they were very excited about. This celebration enhances the community, young and old, and creates unity, pride and civic awareness, which the complete Legislature says is that that's what we want for Nassau County. We want an

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inclusive neighborhood, we want an inclusive civic community.

And the other question, which I'm hoping that you might be able to direct me for, is that we understand that Nassau County is planning this fabulous celebration for our anniversary, and I want to know if that's being cut also, if everything else is being cut for the community.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: I would suggest, as I've said, that this is not a question and answer. You do have a legislator and I would urge you to contact your legislator's office. The phone numbers and contact is readily available, and I'm sure whoever it is will be quite responsive.

MS. CATALDO: Thank you very much. Thank you for your time.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Sarah Golden.

MS. GOLDEN: Good afternoon, Legislators, and thank you for having us

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here today to talk about Backyard Players and Friends.

Backyard Players is a local, inclusive, arts-based community program for young adults with intellectual disabilities. We currently have 15 interactive classes a week and have over 200 participants.

We are extremely proud of our new community service project, Love Nana, a volunteer and donation based program creating baby bundles compiled of gently used baby items provided to families in need.

Love Nana's mission is twofold: assist these families while creating a space for our Backyard Players and the greater community to work together to build skills with a shared goal of helping others. I'd like to introduce Nana, who is here with us today (referencing). Joan Highland, Nana, is a real person. Because behind every initiative for social services to others

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and change in the world is a real person doing real work.

Love, Nana is constantly met with donations. What started through word of mouth and social media has moved to sponsored drives held by schools, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, sports teams and families all over Long Island. Last Sunday alone, we had over 40 CYO basketball players run a detergent drive for us.

Enter our volunteers. Our participants from backyard players, community members, students from local schools from Rockville Center, East Meadow, BOCES, Valley Stream and New Hyde Park offer up their time at Love, Nana.

Donations are clean folded and transformed into our Baby Bundles, each carefully and beautifully packaged with a signed card from the volunteers who assembled it. These are our gifts to the family, and they reflect the love that we put into making them. We also have our

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own team of Nana's, senior citizens who share their talents by making sweaters, hats, blankets, and dolls.

The bundles are then distributed to local social services and delivered to moms and babies in need. Our bundles have been gifted in Hempstead, Lynbrook, Massapequa, Oceanside, Baldwin, Mount Sinai, Mercy Hospital, Bethany House, Ukraine and a volunteer of ours personally delivered two bundles to the MODO Foundation on her trip to Africa.

We work hard to answer the call, but we can't do it alone. We continue to work and our collaborations have grown tenfold with no signs of slowing down or stopping. You will find that the words "no" and "can't" are not in our vocabulary.

I know we are in a room of people who they themselves are busy doing the work, but I would like to invite you to come for a visit to Love, Nana. And we are grateful and proud of the circle of

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giving back that we have created. People want to help. You just have to ask them.

Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you, Stephanie Chase.

MS. CHASE: Good afternoon, Legislators.

The funds that were earmarked for the communities to beautify, to help at the food banks, the churches, the libraries, my understanding is that it's going to be taken away and put towards Nassau County celebrations. I don't know if any of you have gone throughout the communities and seen people standing on line at the food banks. It's really jolting. And everybody up here is blessed that they don't have to do that. Just have some compassion. Have some compassion for people.

The celebration for Nassau anniversary, whoop-de-do. People need services. And listening to this mental health issue. Don't you realize what's

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going on with these kids? I never saw so many children or young adults wanting to kill themselves. Kill themselves, thinking that there's no better tomorrow. How could that be? I mean, I used to play with my Barbie dolls. I had no cares in the world. But these kids now it's different. They facing things that you or I have never. They had to grow up too fast.

So I'm just asking also to have that money going to the libraries. That's really valuable. I'm from the Lakeview community, a proud member of the Lakeview Civic Association, a proud member of the board of the NAACP in Lakeview. And we do that. We're out. We're out in the streets and we see what's going on. And I just just wish you would all take a moment to see or just go through.

You don't have to be afraid. Legislator Gaylor has been coming out and he's listening to our concerns. And I'm really happy about that because I really

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didn't expect that from him. But you should all come out and just see, go to other areas and see, we're just people. And just see what your constituents are going through. It's the have and the have nots. Thank you so much.

> PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you. Robin Garrison Bolling.

MS. BOLLING: Good afternoon, Legislators. My name is Robin Bolling and I am representing the Westbury/New Cassel NAACP. It is my understanding that the funding from the American Red Cross Plan Acting Fund is going to be used for other things. I'm here requesting that we get our share because we are an organization.

I just want to read you our vision and mission statement, the vision of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People: "We envision an inclusive community rooted in liberation, where all persons can exercise their civil and human rights without discrimination".

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As a community, we're raising

children now. And in this society at this

time, our children need all the help they

can get. And if that means joining the

organization such as ours or any other

organization community based in their

community to uplift them so they have

other things to think about, to talk

about, to get involved with so they don't

turn to gangs, they don't turn to

depression. They have something to get

excited about. There's so much happening

in the world, and with organizations like

ours, we're teaching them. We're teaching

them how to uplift one another. We're

teaching them how to get involved into

other things besides themselves. We're

teaching them to include everyone, not

just the person that looks like you, but

everybody around you, because what

affects them affects you. And in the long

term, if we're not really thinking about

that in the long term, we're going to

build adults that think about no one. But

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with our organization and many other organizations that are here that are represented, we're trying to make sure that our children understand it's not just about you, it's about everybody around you.

And I want you guys to understand that we need your help. And if that help comes in the way of funding, whatever funding you can give us, whatever funding you can allot to us, please give it to us. Please help us to continue doing what we're doing in our communities to uplift our children, our seniors and everyone around, because what affects them affects us. And thank you for your time.

> PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you. Carmen Lloyd.

MS. LLOYD: Good afternoon, Legislators. I come to you out of a passion for children education and equaling the playing field. I was invited to come and speak on behalf of the NAACP. With NAACP, I am the educational chair. I

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also am on the Board of Trustees for the Westbury Library. Education, again, is my passion.

I served for over 40 years in the public school system in New York City and in other areas where I know about advocacy and making sure that our voice be heard when decisions about funding have to be made.

I've lived in Westbury for over 40 years. I love my community and I serve wherever I can to make sure that we get an equal piece of the pie.

So my appeal before I go any further, please make sure Westbury is up there on the list and we get an equal piece of the pie. Getting an equal piece of the pie means coming to you guys and saying, please make wise and informed decisions about what the communities need.

Robin spoke about NAACP. We do a lot in that community. We'll do a lot more with the resources given that will enable

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us to do things like, we're talking about putting a mentorship program together. We're talking about working with our high school children, many of whom -- and be aware of that, too, when we talk about education. Our children have lost at least two or more years in learning, and not only because of our fault, but because of the condition in which we live. Covid has changed the playing field.

Our community is diverse. We service as children from every part of the world. We probably have the greatest amount of need for education funding for programs like ESL, second language learners. We have a big need for just funding our children and families.

I welcome the fact when everyone was talking about mental health issues, that's huge, and we need more funding for it. I was very happy when our library was able to offer mental health resources, and we were like picking from crumbs to

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get a student to come from one of our local colleges, to volunteer as a person who when children are in crisis, the school is not filling that gap, but they can come to the library and talk to a social worker. So libraries are more than just, come pick up a book.

So my appeal is, remember us in the funding and make wise decisions, because we are also going to be leaving a legacy when we don't support the things we feel are valued. Do we value our children? Do we value education? Value them. And make sure Westbury gets a piece of the pie.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you. Rhenaye Hornsby.

MS. HORNSBY: Good afternoon. I am speaking on behalf of the NAACP Westbury branch, and I would just like to echo what my two members spoke about, and those are resources. A lot of the activities that we do in the NAACP are on a volunteer basis. And thank goodness for organizations like Northwell Health and

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LIJ hospital, that we're able to get free services for them. And as Robin and Carmen spoke about, sometimes you need to hire people to come out. Not everybody is willing or have the time to come out for free. So we're advocating and hoping and beseeching that you will provide funding so that we could do the after school in addition to what the schools do. They can't do it all.

I visited a library out in Half Hollow Hills for a meeting, and they actually had a program where the children after school came into the library to get additional services. And we want to do things like that. We have the Yes, We Can Center where we can set up additional programs.

The other piece is, one of the biggest missions of the NAACP nationally: Mental health. And I think every person in here that drives or wherever you are, somebody is doing something so crazy and you're saying to yourself, what's going

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on? We're all suffering. We're all suffering from PTSD from what just happened to us and what we're still going through.

Basically, what I'm saying is give us a little money and we'll help keep some of those folk from being as crazy as this world has made us. And I'm particularly talking about Covid. We're still going through it. I still wear my mask. I just don't have it on right now.

But we really have to be careful about where we put our money, because what affects one community affects all communities. It affects our cities, which then boils over into our state and into our country. And we need to be together no matter what. Thank you for your time and have a good day.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Alisa Samuels-Stein,

MS. SAMUELS-STEIN: Hi, my name is Alisa Samuel-Stein. I'm the district psychologist for Port Washington School

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District. I've been working there for 23 years, and currently I'm the chairperson for preschool special education. And I also oversee all of our out of district students from 5 to 22.

So let me tell you a little bit about how, because I'm one of the people who actually determines who gets the speech OT and PT, these related service providers that all of these agencies are here speaking about, that we can't find.

So what happens is we get a referral, whether it's from EI or from the parent. They come and the student is first evaluated. Standardized testing is used, it's empirically based. A whole team meets, I'm the chairperson. Based on not only the testing but also classroom performance and hearing the parents, I will determine if that child actually has a disability and what type of a disability it is. And we all know that the range of typical and normal development is great, but these are

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children that don't fall in this range. So whether the child needs speech, OT, PT or everything will be determined at that meeting. So I'm the person eventually who makes that determination.

The problem is, is that we can all be in agreement that I don't know, "Johnny" needs speech, and I make the recommendation and I give the parents all of the agencies and we all go and try and find someone, and then there's no one to be found, not because they don't want to work, but it's because they're not getting paid enough money. So they are going to other places like hospitals, like public schools, and working for early intervention. These are wonderful people that we need.

I can tell you, having worked with children all the way up until the age of 22, that when we get and intervene at an early age, we see significant improvement as these children grow up. So in the terms of being pennywise and pound

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foolish, I think that's what's happening right now. Because eventually, if we don't give these children at an early age the right types of supports, eventually we're going to pay for it. We're going to have to provide the supports later on, and it'll just be that much more money.

So I really, truly encourage you to consider hearing what everyone else said with all the statistics and increasing their pay wages.

And one other thing, I just want to let you know that I do really appreciate seeing those posters up today. Thank you so much.

> (Whereupon, referring to posters of missing children.) PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you. Mary Ellen Kreye.

MS. KREYE: Good afternoon, Mary Ellen Kreye from Uniondale. I'm on the board for Uniondale Community Council, which is a 46 year old organization dedicated to youth services, community

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development and civic concerns. Our youth project has been deeply involved with our young people since 1980. So we have a track record.

Our Board urges the Legislature to release the funds federal opioid addiction funds to community organizations, especially to serve our youth at this time of crisis. It is our understanding that only 1/12, 1/12 has been distributed at this time of urgency. Unbelievable.

Further, we have learned that the American Rescue funding isn't being designated for Covid abatement for organizations and businesses. This is not the way for this county to do business. We urge you to follow the guidelines and move the funding to the appropriate places. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you. All right. This concludes our public comment. We have public comment on items for specific items and that will come

2 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Right now 3 we're going to call our Emergency, and that would be on Clerk Item 20-2024. A 5 motion by Deputy Presiding Officer 6 McKevitt, seconded by Minority Leader DeRiggi-Whitton on the emergency. That's 8 a motion to establish the emergency. Any comment? 10 (Whereupon, no verbal

> response.) PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All right.

All those in favor of establishing the emergency, please say, "Aye".

> (Whereupon, all members of the Full Legislature respond in favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Any opposed?

> (Whereupon, no verbal response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: That is unanimous.

So we have the emergency established.

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The item is a resolution confirming 2 3 the appointment by the County Executive of Veronica Renta Irwin as a judge of the District Court for the Second Judicial 5

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District, pursuant to Section 21(D) of the Article 6 of the Constitution.

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That motion is made by Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer Ferretti and seconded by Legislator Mule.

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All those in favor of this item, please say, "Aye".

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(Whereupon, all members of

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the Full Legislature respond in

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favor with, "Aye".)

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Any

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opposed?

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(Whereupon, no verbal

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response.)

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: That item

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is unanimous.

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(Whereupon, applause.)

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(Whereupon, off record

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discussion.)

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: You're

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here, I didn't realize. Come on up. Congratulations from all of us. And would you like to --

MS. IRWIN: Thank you, if I could. I Just want to thank you all. Wish you all, a good afternoon.

First, I would like to thank the Nassau County Executive, of course, Bruce Blakeman, for considering me for this appointment to the district court bench. I deeply appreciate his support and his confidence in my ability to fill this position. I would also like to thank all of you for considering this appointment.

I would like to thank my family and friends, both who are here and who are unable to be here today. Of course, I'd also like to thank Chairman Jay Jacobs and Chairman Cairo.

As many of you know, I spent the last four years as the principal law clerk to the incomparable Justice Sharon Gianelli. Prior to that, I was a practicing attorney for 20 years. During

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that time, I had the privilege of

litigating and trying cases at almost

every level, from the federal courts to

actually District Court in Nassau County.

I believe, and I hope I'll make a fair

and impartial judge. And I look forward

to the opportunity to administer justice.

I know you all have been provided with a

copy of my resume, and of course I'm

available for any questions.

Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL:

Congratulations to you again.

MS. IRWIN: Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Good luck.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Now we have a number of consent items. These 3 items have gone through previous 5 committees and have been approved and 6 have been discussed by the Majority and Minority. Need no further discussion. And 8 those items: Item 1, Ordinance 1 of 24; Item 2, 10 Ordinance 2; Item 3, Ordinance 3; Item 4, 11 Ordinance 4; Item 6, Resolution 2; Item 12 7, Resolution 3; Item 8, Resolution 4.

Motion on those items is made by Legislator Pilip and seconded by Legislator Davis.

All those in favor of those item, please say, "Aye".

> (Whereupon, all members of the Full Legislature respond in favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Any opposed?

> (Whereupon, no verbal response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Those

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NC FULL LEGISLATURE 01.22.2023 items are unanimous. ***** _____TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516) 414-3516 _____71 ___

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Now I'm going to call Resolution 5 of 24 and Legislator Goetz is recusing herself on this item. Leaving the chamber will not take part in any debate or discussion on the item. The record will so reflect.

> (Whereupon, Legislator Goetz leaves the Chambers.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All right, that motion on that item is made by Legislator Strauss and is seconded by Legislator Koslow.

All those in favor of establishing the emergency, please say, "Aye".

> (Whereupon, all members of the Full Legislature respond in favor with, "Aye".)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: opposed?

> (Whereupon, no verbal response.)

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2	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: That item
3	is unanimous. Would you invite Legislator
4	Goetz back?
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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: I'm going to call a Item 5, Resolution 1, which is a resolution ratifying a memorandum of agreement making certain amendments to the Collective Bargaining Agreement in the County of Nassau and Nassau Community College as joint employers on the one part, and the Nassau Community Federation of Teachers.

Motion is made by Legislator Walker and his seconded by Legislator Drucker.

Okay, Mr. Gross, please.

MR. GROSS: Good afternoon. the opportunity to present the outline of the agreement when the entire Legislature was sitting, but you were in committee formation.

The deal involves percentage increases over a three year period. It also involves for the first time, contribution of health insurance premiums by members of the faculty. That reduces the annual cost of each of the increases to approximately 1.5% for three years,

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when you offset the savings.

We also were able to negotiate contributions during retirement. We did for the current faculty provide a period of time during which unit members can submit their resignations for the purposes of retirement, and they will not have to pay contributions during retirement. So it's only future retirees after the commencement of this agreement. It's anticipated that approximately 20 faculty members of the 411 would avail themselves of that benefit. However, we don't know, of course, until the Legislature approves the agreement and it becomes effective before people, of course, take the important step of submitting their retirement papers.

We reduced the amount of sabbatical leave by about a third, both full time and part time leave. And we also were able to get the Association to agree to the removal of department chairs from the bargaining unit because they really are

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part of the administration, and it's difficult for them from our perspective as well, to be in the same bargaining unit with persons that they're administrating.

The one significant concession we made was over Section 36.5 of the agreement that provided that during the hiatus period after expiration of the contract, and when a new contract is signed, that any increase imposed by the New York State Health Insurance plan is the responsibility of the employee. I know that created a fair amount of concern, and I know you've heard about it, but the deal that was struck was to eliminate Section 36.5 for the future, in view of the fact that we now have contributions from every bargaining unit, which far outstrips, frankly, over a longer period of time, the savings under 36.5, but we did concede the elimination of that clause from the contract, which will be in concert with, I understand,

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other County contracts and now, of course, with the full time faculty. That was a concession.

There were scores of other resolutions of language sought by both sides that I'm not going to bore you with. It would take hours and hours to go through those. A very complicated agreement. The actual agreement is somewhere around 50/60 pages. It took a year and a half to get closure: 28 negotiating sessions, five mediation sessions, but ultimately we settled.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you, Mr. Gross.

Thank you.

you.

Jerry Kornbluth. How are you, Jerry? MR. KORNBLUTH: Good afternoon,

opportunity to share a few things with

Legislators. Thank you for giving me the

I was really going to speak after afterwards when you hopefully support the contract, but I just want to make a

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couple of statements which I think are important. And I want to urge you, of course, to support this contract. The timing is actually really good, because classes begin for the spring semester on Thursday and coming into the semester with a signed contract that shows there was good collegiality between the administration and the faculty, will send a good message of good relationships between the administration and the faculty.

I'd like to commend John Gross. It's been a tedious long term of contract negotiations. And I think his patience, perseverance and his commitment to work both with the Administration and the NCCFT Union in supporting the things that could work for both sides. And at the end of the day, it supports our students and it helps our students moving forward.

The contract was overwhelmingly voted yes by the NCCFT. It's a fair contract. And moving forward, it works

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for both sides.

Just to give you a couple of little things, I think, that are important in terms of the state of higher education today. As you look all around the United States and you look in New York State especially, you're going to see colleges such as Fredonia, Potsdam, Saint Rose, Buffalo State are all having issues in terms of financial stability.

In the CUNY system, you see colleges like Brooklyn College and Queens College in York College recently laying off many, many full time permanent faculty. That is the one thing that Nassau Community College is committed to. We are definitely, and you can never say 100%, but nowhere in our thought process is to eliminate any full time faculty or adjunct lines. So we're committed to that.

What we're doing, and you will see later on in, in in the year when we come before you with our budgets, we are

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definitely looking on how we streamline the costs at the college so that we can bring to you a sustainable financial budget for years to come.

And just to give you the latest, right now we're looking at about a 4.24% in heads for the spring semester and around 4% increase in total credits. So when other colleges are losing enrollment, Nassau Community College is moving forward in terms of increasing their enrollment. We're nowhere where we were 15 years ago, but since the pandemic, we're making moves upward to increase our revenue.

So thank you for giving me the opportunity just to share a few little things with you. And hopefully the contract will be overwhelmingly supported by the Legislature.

Thank you, again.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.

Any debate or discussion on this

item?

	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 01.22.2023
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2	(Whereupon, no verbal
3	response.)
4	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All those
5	in favor of this item, please say, "Aye".
6	(Whereupon, all members of
7	the Full Legislature respond in
8	favor with, "Aye".)
9	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Any
10	opposed?
11	(Whereupon, no verbal
12	response.)
13	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: That item
14	passes unanimously. Thank you.
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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. Our final item is Item 10, Resolution 6 of 24, which authorizes the transfer of appropriations heretofore made within the budget.

Now, that motion will be made by Legislator Ferretti, seconded by Legislator Kennedy.

Andy, let me just say that before you even start, we, at least in the Majority Caucus have the idea that we'd like to keep a frugal outlook on things being that we don't know what the future holds. A good deal of the funds being transferred, I understand, are being transferred to make up -- most of the funds are being transferred to make up for the loss of revenue during Covid, for which the County had to borrow a great deal of money, as well as replenishing the sewer fund, which has been depleted over the last number of years, and that's also being very prudent. We need to be prudent.

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At the same time we're making available certain monies for various programs. That would be \$15 million, I believe. Those programs have not yet been established as to which specific ones they will be. We're going to get ideas from all of the legislators, all 19. At that time, we will work out what that money is for.

But the overriding concern is to be careful with the money and make sure that the County, which has been steadily moving forward in terms of its fiscal position, continues to do so and protects the taxpayers.

Anyway, sorry for that speech, but all yours now, take it away.

MR. PERSICH: No, you've kind of summed up my what I would have said in summary.

What I would say is we lost about a half \$1 billion, \$455 Million, in revenue during Covid. We've been fortunate with a couple things with some of the

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transactions we've done, but now we're starting to hit the headwinds of those ills of the past.

Debt service is going up. Interest rates are rising. Everybody knows the real estate market has hit the wall, so we're losing revenue on that side. There's some pending litigations out there. As fiscally sound as we are, we still have to be very cautious about how we proceed forward. And I will say that there's been some noise, I would say previous in the beginning part of the year where Congress was playing some games where they were thinking about clawing back this money because we haven't obligated it, which put us all into, I would say, an uncomfortable position.

We're moving the money. It's going to be set aside in fund balance, and it will be subject to negotiations and how that money gets disproportionate it out between this Body and the County

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Executive.

I'll give you a little idea on what we've spent already. We've obligated roughly around \$86 million in appropriated about \$118 million. So there's still some unspent funds in the ARPA world. We have researched programs for Office of the Aging Behavioral Health Support, Veterans Services, Groundwater Conservation, some monies for VEED, additional Health and Social Service grant programs.

In addition, let's not forget, under the CDBG and housing money, there was a lot of money put out there that didn't come through this mechanism of funds. Housing did a lot of work on the other side for small businesses and homeless and all the the needs that they have to service. So we have been pushing the money out. I will say it's been a little tough to get out there. And I think by doing this, it sets the groundwork for for locking the money up, protecting the

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tax base.

Look as much as we think we're in good financial standing, I've seen this turn sideways. Covid was a sideway thing. You can't predict these things. Sales tax takes a downturn -- we've been living very good on that right now, but that takes a hit, we've positioned ourselves with some of the financial transactions we've done here with this Body, to position it so that we don't have to harm the tax base or cut programs or anything else, which is what we don't want to do.

We are still striving to continue on this financial glide slope that we're on. So I'm here to field any additional questions that this Body may have. That's in a nutshell what we're trying to do.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you, Andy. Hang out. I think people will want to ask you questions.

> Any debate or discussion? Minority Leader?

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MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: Thank you, Presiding Officer.

I have to admit that I was hopeful over the weekend that we were going to come to some type of good faith agreement regarding the ARPA funding. I understand, although you came up a little while ago stating what incredible shape our county's in financially and how you have such a great, you know, how much funding is available in our reserve and our Moody's rating. And now we're saying that maybe we'll get hit with Covid again or something, and we should be ready. And you know what? I'm at the point now where Andy, honestly, when you come up, I'm starting to lose faith. Because I really feel like you'll swing with whatever the mood is of what has to get done. And I appreciate it that you're in a tough spot, but I really never thought that you used to do that before. I thought I really felt that you were more on a solid basis with that.

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> 266 million is such a small percentage. We were willing to try to hope that

I had a little bit of hope -- actually, I

However, my hope was and I and my,

my office met with Deputy County

Executive Arthur Walsh, and we had talked

about the fact that although we, of

course, would like to trust that if you

say 15 million is going to be allocated,

we'll split it up between legislators, we

have nothing to go on that. We asked that

19 million, which is really still a very

small percentage of the money that the

county has received for this ARPA

funding, at least 19 million giving each

legislator \$1 million to put in to

programs into each of our districts.

Think about what that would do. This is

what that money was for. There's a food

bank in Glen Cove that would save. There

are youth bureaus, there are seniors,

there are mental mental health groups

that could benefit. This is what that

money is for. This 19 million out of the

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had hope that we were starting a new regime. I was hoping that Howard Kopel and I could work together and have good faith going forward with other issues that we might want to negotiate together. But my hope is dwindling.

All that we are asking for right now is instead of 15 million to have it moved up to 19 million, which would really only be another 1.5 million for the Minority caucus. It would actually benefit you guys more. And we would really understand putting almost all of it into the General Fund. But I would really request that we get \$19 million and it be put on the record that it's going to be divided up by all 19 legislators. Again, this is what this money is for.

I really wish even one of you would think about this. I mean, you know, the needs of your of your districts, you know. Even if you weren't a legislator, I really wish, just for once, I would love to see one of you just at least say that

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you agree that you would like to see. Have this funding which was allocated for this reason be given to each legislator.

I know your districts. I know some some areas in Oyster Bay. I know there are a lot of areas that could really use this funding. And to rely on 15 million, we don't know when it's going to be given out, we don't know who it's going to be given out to, we have no control over it. I'm sorry, but I think as a legislative branch, we need to push back and say, no. For us to pass this, we want it to be equal for every legislator. We want to have it full control. We want to have it funded immediately. You new people have no idea how important and what an opportunity this is. This is really a once in a lifetime opportunity to get this funding that we could hand out to groups in our district that would really make a difference. Now, they might just tell you, oh, we're gonna have 15 million. Don't worry about it. We don't

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know where that's going and we don't know when and we don't know how.

Again, I think as a new Body, as new leadership, this is a real opportunity for us to push back. I've been fighting like crazy to get the opioid funding out. We're fighting like crazy for so many things. To sit here today and listen to so many constituents, I'm sitting here thinking, what kind of reputation do we have? What kind of government are we? What kind of county are we? It's really been very disturbing lately, especially mental health. How we sit here and we don't react to our constituents, it's really bothering me on a very deep level.

So I am formally requesting that we, which we can do, Deputy County Executive Walsh said that he's okay if we -- and I wasn't in the meeting, so I'm just saying what was conveyed to me -- he would be okay if we went up to the 19 million and we divided it by 19. I spoke with Howard Kopel over the weekend, and he said he

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would be okay, but he has to check with the Administration. So the Administration has to check with the Legislature. The Legislature has to check with the Administration. And here we are today and nothing is happening. They're still going to just say, oh, we'll put 15 million in and we can't tell you who's getting it or how it's being delivered or when.

So I'm asking not even as a minority leader or as a legislator, I'm asking as a resident of Nassau County, that we bond together, all of us, and say, hey, it's only another \$4 million; only 1.5 for us. The most of it's going to go to you guys in your communities. Let's just send a message that we hear these people that come to our meetings. We hear our constituents.

I can tell you, we all have firsthand examples of where this money can be used, let's show that we can do this. I would be so proud of us.

> LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you,

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Presiding Officer. Hi, Andy. How are you?

MR. PERSICH: Good afternoon, Legislator.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Andy, you mentioned, that half \$1 billion was --Can you rephrase or restate your term?

MR. PERSICH: We did a calculation that was confirmed by our consultants and legal counsel that the County, during Covid, lost almost \$455 million.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: And how much of a surplus did we have last year?

MR. PERSICH: Last year, it was roughly around a half \$1 billion, I think.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: All right. I just wanted to establish that. Because it depends on the day and the spin. Some days we're touting that half \$1 billion surplus. And some days we're using what we say was a deficit or a loss as the anchoring content of the conversation. So I just want to see which context you're putting this into today.

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MR. PERSICH: The fact that we did finish with the surplus is a good thing. The fact that we have liabilities for unpaid claims out there. We had a tax --

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: We had a surplus, right?

MR. PERSICH: We had a surplus, but--LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Just answer the questions that I asked, okay. It'd be better that way.

MR. PERSICH: Okay.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So the answer is that we had a surplus.

MR. PERSICH: Yes.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Presiding Officer, to his comment, you made a comment that, or I guess you prefaced it, I should say, by saying we don't know what the future holds and we should be conservative in our approach in using the ARPA money. Correct?

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Yes.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay, good.

Because I totally agree. And being

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conservative and how we're going to use money moving forward most certainly doesn't translate to \$10 million for a 125th anniversary party for the County. It just doesn't translate.

I gotta tell you, I serve here very humbly, and I serve to be a voice for my community. And most days, I'm very proud to be a part of this county framework. But today is one of those days where I hang my head low. I hang my head low because I'm embarrassed that the people that we entrust with our most vulnerable children, who have special needs, are not being valued appropriately, that we're not meeting their needs to be able to appropriately resource them to do the work. They are getting salaries -- and many of us who have served in this Body prior to receiving a raise would understand what it's like to have salaries from 30 years ago or 20 years ago. Rose, you could agree. Right? So we took the painstaking task of raising

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our income and then going before our constituents and having to have them vote us in or out because we took the chance to give ourselves a raise. I don't understand how we can't do that for the people who are serving our children. I don't understand how these folks are are being paid at the same amount from 27 years ago, where they have come in here,

and they've been able to document that

should be paid, get paid 79. I'll round

up and say they should be paid \$80. So

we're paying them \$0.50 on the dollar to

they are getting paid 40 where they

which they should be paid.

We're sitting here today and we're hearing from communities that are coming up talking about the work that they'd like to undertake in their community or continue in their community, because they see the need. We're sitting here today. A county that does not do enough for its homeless. And I know that because I've done the research. I know that this

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county pays \$60,000 to Long Island's Coalition for the Homeless, when we have an we have a state of an emergency. It's a public emergency based on the number of homeless people that we have in this county. They're not in just one part of this county. We all see them. We all see them. And all of the things that I'm enumerating, we still think a \$10 million party for the 125th anniversary is an appropriate use of money. We think that our districts aren't worthy of \$1 million apiece. That's what we're saying when we take a vote today for \$15 million as opposed to \$19 million. You're saying each and every last one of you are saying that your district is not worthy of \$1 million to be invested in it for the purpose of stabilizing them after coming out of the most historic time in US history that we will live through with Covid. You're saying your district doesn't deserve that. Well, I say shame on you. Shame on you because I know my

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district is deserving of it. I know that my district is deserving of twice as much as that.

I don't understand how we're sitting here today, and then we're going to say that we won't even find a fair way to remove politics out of this appropriation of the funds. Now, you know that everything that we do as a Body, when it comes from the budget, when it goes to CRP money to Hotel/Motel money, we have always allocated it at 1/19 of the total sum per legislator so that there was fairness, equality, equity. So we remove the politics from it so there was no ability for one person to decide how the money got spent.

I also don't believe that we're sitting here at a time such as this, where we have seen time and time again when we put this money on the streets and into our communities that we've put it in, without understanding how these community organizations work, how they

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work. We can't do it on a reimbursement plan because many of them don't have the resources and the revenue to be able to do it on consignment. To be able to put the outlay first. We have to give the people what they need to do the work for our residents, for our neighbors, for our families, for our friends. We're failing.

We're failing.

I'm telling you, I'm totally perplexed with a touch of embarrassment of where we sit here today, because we can be doing so much better and so much more. We have the ability, based on resources alone, to change to the trajectory of the homeless population, the young people who need the early intervention, to turn the corner on people with food insecurities. But we want to sit on this money because we want our coffers to seem flush, because we want to put on the dog and pony show that this county is in a half \$1 billion surplus when we know good and well that

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money is based, it should be out for programming, for opioids, for ARPA. We know this.

I'm going to tell you right now that I wrote a letter to the County Executive this past Friday regarding homelessness. I was able to put in there that we only allocate \$60,000 for what we call what was called the HIT team. Many of you legislators have referred people to the HIT team. Well, there is no more hit team, folks. There's no more HIT team. There's one person. And actually, that person provides a half of a day's work towards going out into the community to identify those people that are homeless on the street. There was a team. Just a few years ago, there was a team, a whole team of people, folks from the Homeless Intervention Team, folks from Adult Protective Services that went out into the communities and found those people and gave them the resources they need. We did it, and we funded it up until a few

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years ago, to the tune of \$325,000. Now we do it at 60.

I could go on and on and on today,
but I don't want to be on a soapbox
today, because what I would rather do is
have us spend the time, maybe in
executive sessions in our own caucuses,
to figure out how are we going to raise
this money up to a minimum of \$19 million
and break it down to 1/19 of a district.
That's what I would rather see us do with
our time today, because anything short of
that is a failure on this Body.

Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: I just
want to re-emphasize, and I believe,
Andy, you'll have to confirm this. We do
spend money on programs, but beyond that,
this \$15 million is additional money to
what we are spending on programs that has
not been allocated to specific things at
this point. And those programs that
you're all bringing up here are
potentially very worthy of consideration.

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And they will be considered in terms of how this money will be spent ultimately.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: No. So here it. is --

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: And we're not finished yet. In other words, we haven't figured that out.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Presiding Officer, some of these programs are not funded at all by the County that we're suggesting funding.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: And you're suggesting funding and the \$15 million will be available.

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: don't trust it.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: If you don't trust it, I can't help you.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Well, the problem is that we have been in deliberations and negotiations for this money for an extended period of time. And it's taken us this long to get to this point where we're at 15 million as opposed to 19

million. We started negotiations for these dollars, well before there was even any mention of a 125 year anniversary at \$10 million.

Presiding Officer, I just want to set the record clear. We've been in negotiations for this money well, in advance of any mention of a \$10 million, 125th anniversary event. Well, in advance. Let me just finish.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: That brings extra money into the County.

That's the idea of that one. And it's not a party.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: It's a series of parties. Can I finish though?

I just want to make it clear for the record that we have been in negotiations for this money for an extended period of time, we being the Minority caucus. The ability for the Legislature to get this money at all has been through those negotiations. I implore my colleagues that we started out on this endeavor, and

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we're happy that you have joined us, but you're joining us without understanding the full value of bringing \$1 million to each one of your communities that no one knows better than you, no one knows better than you where that money should go. No one knows better than you what the needs are in your district, and to cut your community short by \$4 million is a disservice to your constituencies in this community.

And I have to tell you, I'm all for a party. I love a party. Okay, let me be clear, but not at \$10 million at the expense of these services and to the benefit of our communities.

Thank you.

(Whereupon, Legislator Pilip leaves dais.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Legislator Drucker.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you, Presiding Officer. To follow that very impassioned speech by my colleague,

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really, really, very, very impactful.

There is a direct, verifiable correlation between money that is allocated to each of the 19 of us, and that really should be a priority. You know, that really should be a priority. There's a direct correlation.

Each of us know how we can better serve our particular constituents in our respective districts. No one knows better than each of us, each of the 19 of us. We're only asking for what is fair. And we need to go back to our constituents and say, we have this money now. We're going to allocate it in ways that we know each of our communities need best.

Legislator Bynoe mentioned things
like homelessness. There should be zero
homelessness in Nassau County. A county
this affluent shouldn't have any
homelessness. We shouldn't have food
insecurity. It's something that's
reprehensible.

You know, we are so grateful to the

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public who come here and inform us of the inequities that go on in our county, the inequities that impact services to our most precious commodities, our children, and how those services are not being met. It is embarrassing. Each one of us, I know that in your respective heart of hearts, each one of us is embarrassed when we heard of what the County is repaying in reimbursement compared to other jurisdictions, other counties. It's terrible.

You know the expression, "oh, you know, these are all worthy discussions for another day", a few of us here are attorneys. I know I've learned the hard way, and I'm sure my colleagues have learned the hard way. Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me. Because if we say, okay, we're going to have these items to discuss another day, whether the 19 million or whether it's increasing the allocation and the reimbursement to the therapists, no,

let's deal with it head on. Thankfully, to all of you who come out here and inform us of what the problems are in our respective districts and as a countywide, we rely upon that and we're grateful to you. But you know what? This county has a surplus and we've navigated from really rocky roads. Andy, I'm sure you'll agree to that. We've navigated some rocky roads

And, a year ago, everyone was sounding the alarms. Inflation is killing us, the gas prices, food. Yet we are navigating that through and we still have money and we still have surpluses.

and with coming out of the pandemic, with

the surpluses that we have.

Our oath of office is to be stewards of the money that come to Nassau County.

We have to be the ones that decide where it should be applied. These are unprecedented times. Yes, we should be somewhat fiscally responsible. We should always be fiscally responsible. And, you know, prepare for a rainy day. But we can

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balance that now because we have unprecedented surpluses now. We have an opportunity to not squander this opportunity. We have programs. We have injustices and inequities in our county that we have the ability to address. And it starts with each one of us. Each one of the 19 of us has the ability to use that money in a way that only benefits our constituents, only benefits the residents of Nassau County. And we have to deal with that now. We can't deal with it on another day and say it's worthy of discussion. Now let's let's deal with it now.

Thank you.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you. I have concerns about various statements that you made, Andy, on behalf of your employer, the County Executive. I mean, you made many references to how the County had a loss. You had a loss of \$455 million from Covid, from the pandemic. I mean, was it the Legislative intent of

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the American Rescue Plan for
municipalities to pad up their coffers in
order to seem fiscally solvent? Was that
the intent of the American Rescue Plan?

MR. PERSICH: It had many intentions. It wasn't just one broad based thing, but it was --

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: But it wasn't the intent for the municipality to make themselves look better by padding up their coffers and not giving money and funding to organizations and other services and purposes that go to the general welfare of the County. It was not the intent of the Legislature of Congress to design such a plan for municipalities to pad up their coffers like this.

MR. PERSICH: The fact of the matter is, the County did lose a half \$1 billion in revenue. Look, I know nobody wants to hear this because it is not -- we sustained a lot of liabilities in the bad years that we're trying to catch up for.

And the balance sheet --

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LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: The County has a surplus. With all due respect, sir. I think what County is in a better position to balance out its balance sheets compared to the everyday household where we have children dying from depression, opioid overdose and various other issues.

> MR. PERSICH: I respectfully hear what you're saying, but in fairness, we built up a big backlog of liabilities as a result of being in a control period having to borrow for operating funds. We still have \$1 billion in outstanding debt.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Do we have an opinion from the County Attorney that it is legally permissible for us to use this money in this way? Do we have an opinion?

MR. PERSICH: Yes we do.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Do we have it in writing?

MR. PERSICH: Yes we do.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Furthermore, you mentioned that the 25 million would

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be designated to the Sewer and Storm

Water Fund. What specific efforts and programs will you achieve? Because, you know, we had a recent rainstorm in September in which many senior citizens in Elmont lost their home and they're

still out of their home. Despite the County Executive using them as props for

a press conference in front of the

courthouse, they're still out of their

homes. Will that money be used to help

those people who are now homeless?

MR. PERSICH: The money will be used in the Sewer District to fund many projects that are out there.

One is, as we know, our infrastructure has been dilapidated as a result of not being able to do that. So the Sewer District is a direct result of that. We have two big projects down there right now, which is going to cost us a lot of money. One is the diversion project to clean up the western Nassau bays, which is very expensive. We're

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getting into the the part of where we're running the pipe now, and the construction costs are going up, so the debt service is going up.

Additionally, we have an energy project going on down in Bay Park, which is going to escalate our electrical costs as a result of that. So those two big things are really, really big drains on the district. So we're trying to stabilize that without having to do any increases on the revenue side to do that.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: But why should why should people who are suffering have to suffer even more for you to reach those goals?

MR. PERSICH: Well, you know, I wish -- look, things cost money. And unfortunately costs have gone up. We struggle too. I mean, it's not like we're not. And again, if we do have outstanding liabilities that we do have to pay. And what we've done with our surpluses is strategically placed them to

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kill some of the backlog, for lack of a better thing, to dwindle down our liabilities side of the balance sheet so that we can sustain a more stable path.

It's still unstable right now.

I do a multi-year plan which is scrutinized by NIFA, which is telling me I'm still in a control period as a result of that. So while we may think we're in the best shape, I still have somebody looking over my shoulder saying, you need to be careful too, and we still have to navigate that.

respect, I think it is tone deaf for the Administration to hear the cries of parents, of young people. With all due respect. It is tone deaf. It is similar to Marie Antoinette saying, "let them eat cake", while the County has a surplus, but everyday people are suffering. We're doing a huge disservice to ourselves here to have the Presiding Officer agree 100% with this Administration. This Body

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should not be an extension of the County Executive Executive Branch. It should not. We cannot have a full agreement on this issue.

We must do better for our constituencies. We have veterans who are homeless here in Nassau County. We're reminded that of that on a monthly basis when we have Meta come here and testify. I thank everyone who has come here to speak, especially all those who are providing special education services to young children, like my daughter. It is a shame that this county does not have resources to properly pay you what you deserve. Shame on us.

Thank you.

LEGISLATOR MULE: My colleagues have all been very eloquent and gone into great detail. It's really simple for me. We have all of this money from the ARPA plan. I think an argument can be made that some of it needs to go into the General Fund. I think a very good

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argument can be made that we need to be fiscally conservative. I remember all of the extremely concerned discussions during Covid, when we were discussing refinancing the debt and there were voices against that. That turned out to be one of the best things that we ever did and that's what helped put us into this good position that we're in now.

To make it simple, we're not asking for much. We're asking for \$4 million more. We're asking for the allocation to be put on the record as being fair; each of us getting \$1 million. We're asking for provisions to be put into place to make sure that the monies are spent in the correct way, meaning that there isn't too much red tape that the agencies will need to go through.

To the community, I just want to make clear that things will automatically be put into place to make sure that only organizations that are properly vetted and verified will get the money. It

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can't just go to anybody because those real guardrails are already put into place by the Federal Government. So I just want everyone to be aware of that.

It wasn't a hard lift for my partners on the other side, colleagues on the other side, to say, yeah, we'll put \$10 million towards the party. It shouldn't be a hard lift to add \$4 million more to make sure that we each get \$1 million in our districts to provide for all of the needs that we just heard about today. I mean, we hear about them all the time, but we really heard about them today. I don't even need to repeat it because the need is there. We have the ability to do it. It shouldn't be a hard lift. That's it.

Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Mr. Davis.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Please. Thank

you. Appreciate it.

Good afternoon, Andy.

MR. PERSICH: Good afternoon.

2 LEGISLATOR DAVIS: I just want to 3 clarify a couple of items that you spoke

about so I can be clear about it.

In terms of the actual amount of ARPA money we received, would it be fair to say it was about \$385 million?

MR. PERSICH: I think it's 392 or something. It's 390 ish is what I would say.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: And that money was received in two increments; is that correct?

MR. PERSICH: Yes. It was. And the first increment was March of 2021, and a second was in March of 2022.

MR. PERSICH: Correct.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: So by March of 2022, we received nearly \$380 million.

MR. PERSICH: That is correct.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Was there any additional funds besides those two?

MR. PERSICH: Historical perspective, when Covid hit there was CARES funding that was done. That was

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\$104 million that was allocated.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: I'm not talking about CARES.

MR. PERSICH: And then we got this money. This money was directly through the County. The Housing Department, Community Development Agency, received some additional funds too that were to promote small businesses and other things. That number I don't have off the top of my head, but there was significant

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: If I gave you like, 29, \$30 million somewhere in that ballpark?

MR. PERSICH: Somewhere in that range of 50, I think. That was some of the money that was funneled through CDBG and other the ESG program over there.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: So the total of all of them would be over \$400 million.

MR. PERSICH: Yes.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: And of the money that's actually been spent, how much of

it from the ARPA money has been actually 3

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spent?

MR. PERSICH: Okay. We've obligated approximately \$86 million. We've appropriated, which means we still have unspent funds of about 119,000; 85 is what's been spent.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Eighty five million of the 380 has been spent.

MR. PERSICH: Right.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Now, in terms of how that money is to be spent, there are parameters from ARPA, right?

MR. PERSICH: Yes.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: And with that money, it has to be obligated by December 31, 2024.

MR. PERSICH: That is correct.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: And it actually has to be spent by December 31, 2026; is that correct?

MR. PERSICH: That is correct.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Now, I heard you mention earlier that you indicated that

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you heard "whispers" of money being potentially clawed back.

MR. PERSICH: In May of this year, there was conversations that were within Congress that some of the ARPA funds might have been clawed back.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Can you be a little bit more specific about what that was?

MR. PERSICH: Well, I can't speak for what happens in Washington, Legislator. What I did hear only from what I know from the news stories and everything else that were out there, was that there was a potential that to balance the Federal Budget they were going to claw back some of these funds, which put the County at risk to lose this money. So if they would have clawed that back, this money we're discussing now would be a moot point because Treasury would come in and take it back. So we wouldn't have this funds to do that because it hasn't been obligated.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: No, I appreciate that. But you don't actually have a specific basis for that, correct?

MR. PERSICH: I only know that it was part of the negotiations that were going on between Congress back when that was happening.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Can you attribute that to a particular person, a particular date, time?

MR. PERSICH: No. The date and time? I can't tell you that it was a scary moment when there was going to be a government shutdown and this was a resource that they were rumored to use.

I'm using that from what I know from the press. That's what I'm telling you. And it scared us a little bit here.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: So that concern is what is driving the need from your perspective to get this money obligated to the General Fund; is that right?

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: It's one of the concerns I have. Yes. I would like to

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secure this money, have it obligated because it's hard to spend here. That's the problem we have. It's becoming more and more harder to spend.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: It's hard to spend?

MR. PERSICH: As we've seen here, because there's some still unspent funds in some of the programs we have out there. We spent 85, but there's 120 out that's still to be spent. So this 30 some odd million out there in some program existing programs that we're not using.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: So do you think that if we spent an additional \$4 million that that would be significant at all?

MR. PERSICH: It would be a slippery slope considering where we're at now.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Not my question. \$4 million additional -- you just said that we have a hard time spending this money. And if I'm saying to you, I have 4 million and a good place to use it; how about that?

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MR. PERSICH: I would leave that to the principals and the elected officials to do that, to make that determination. Okay. I'm not a policymaker here, Legislator.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: I'm not asking for that.

MR. PERSICH: So if that's what gets determined, then that's what will be done.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: That would allay one of your concerns about spending this money, right?

MR. PERSICH: Possibly. Yes.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Okay.

Kopel. I don't know if this is the appropriate forum for it, but I do have a question for you as well.

I just have a question for Mr.

Here's my question: Is it even a question that whatever money, whether it's 15 million or \$19 million, is there even a question that this money will not be allocated proportionately among --

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equally -- among all the legislators?

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: I'm sorry. If I understand your question, you want to be sure that each legislator gets a proportionate amount?

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: I'll clarify it for you. Hypothetically, let's say we agreed on a number of \$19 million.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Yeah. million per. Is that what you would like?

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Yes. That's exactly my question.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: No. I think that that's going to be a discussion the Administration is going to have with us. And, and I would say that the money will probably go where it's needed the most. This is a big county. Perhaps some very wealthy districts might not need as much as some needy districts, which might need more for certain programs.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: So it's possible

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that my district could get actually more than 1/19 based on the needs of my constituents?

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: It's possible. Again, that's something that the Administration will be looking at.

Andy?

MR. PERSICH: The 15 million, what I understand it to be is going to be working between the this Body and the County Executive with what project specific things you come up with. And then there will be a negotiation, is the way I understand.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: I'm just seizing on one item that was mentioned here without saying that that's going to be one of the items or won't be, but it was mentioned, for instance, homeless. There are some areas that have more than others. Some areas don't have much at all. So you're going to allocate money according to the need.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: And just to

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clarify, that's our prerogative as the Legislature to do that, correct?

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Again, this is something where the Administration, the Executive Body, typically will make the proposal -- we can make our own proposal, but once again, we're going to work with the Executive Body, because you've got to have both. If we don't have both, we're not getting anywhere.

All right, Mr. Koslow.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: Thank you, Presiding Officer.

As an initial question, I just want to clarify something because I'm obviously new to this dais. We do have checks and balances here in Nassau County, correct?

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Checks and balances in the sense that we have two co-equal branches of government; if that's what you mean. And you have a third as well, the Judiciary.

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LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: So all three parts are separate and apart. They work independently, right?

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: They work independently, but they work together, certainly. To some extent.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: I just wanna make sure that the Executive Branch doesn't tell us what to do, correct. We do it on our own, right?

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: The Executive Branch will propose certain things, we will evaluate it, and dispose of it.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: My question for you is: We are an independent body, correct? We are not part of the Executive Branch, right?

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Of course not.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: And the Executive Branch is not part of the Legislative Branch, correct?

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Of course

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not.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: And notwithstanding the judge we just approved, the Judicial Branch is separate apart from all three, correct?

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: You've got an "A" in civics.

Thank you. I wanna make sure that you are all on the same page with me.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: All right.

My concern here today is, Andy, if you could clarify something for me. If I'm reading this correctly, there's approximately \$222 million going into the General Fund.

MR. PERSICH: That is correct.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: And if we were to take four more million to put towards contractual services to make it 19 million, that would still leave almost 220 million, 218 million or so in General Fund, correct?

MR. PERSICH: That would be the math, yes, Legislator.

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LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: Okay.

Now, as a new legislator, one of the things I heard in talking to people during my campaign was they're tired of elected officials hiding things from them. They're tired of wondering where all the money is going in one of the wealthiest counties in the country. We have an opportunity here to do something for our constituents with money that is being given to us by the Federal Government, and the Majority is expecting us as legislators to just agree that we're going to earmark money with no agreed upon destination where it's going, who's going to get it, or for what reason, or how for that matter. Where we have an opportunity to go back to our independent individual districts and say, look, we were able to secure \$1 million or even \$780,000, if it's the 15 million, whatever, it is, a substantial sum of money for our independent district. Or the alternative is, we were able to

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secure \$15 million, but I don't know where it's going and who's going to get it.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Koslow, if I may just correct one thing or a possible misapprehension and I apologize for interrupting you, but I just want to make sure you understand that when the actual determination as to where the money goes is made, that's still got to be approved by this Body. I will be approved by the Body.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Okay. That was part of my point.

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: think that's completely not true. It is completely not true. Once this is passed, we have no control over where the money goes or how it's distributed.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: That is inaccurate.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: You're effectively asking us to agree to an allocation of \$15 million, and then we

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have to politicize who gets what based on what arguments we can make from a political perspective.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: That's our job.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: Our job is to look out for our communities, our job is not the fight with you about how much money my district deserves versus your district because we have money in the County budget. Our job is to represent our communities and our constituents, not to agree to give a sum of money with no allocation to it and no idea who it's going to, when and why. Our job is to not hide things from our constituents. And my question for you is what are you hiding by not giving us our fair share of whatever money we're putting aside?

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: You keep on -- all of you keep on going on about how we're hiding things, and we're not giving you your fair share and all that. We are not spending this money here

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today. This money is being allocated for programs, period. The programs have yet to be determined as to what they are and where they are and you're taking a leap over here by suggesting that they're not going to be given to your district or somebody else's district. That has yet to be determined, and that will be voted on by this Body as to specific allocations of money before any of it is actually spent.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: What about the Administration and what they have to say in this process?

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Of course, they're involved in that process as well.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: What happened to separation and checks and balances? Why are they making the determination of where this money goes.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: I'm sorry. Every program and every government in the country has a negotiation between the Executive and the Legislative bodies.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: So now we have to negotiate with the Administration to figure out where that money goes, and it's not going to our districts.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Wait,
wait. The first half of your sentence is
correct; the second half of your sentence
is incorrect.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: But you're politicizing the money now. Now we have to now negotiate with --

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Money is not being politicized. The money is being moved from one pot to the other. And the new pot over here is for programs. What the programs are, we're not voting on that today. We are not talking about that at all today. Where the money is going exactly to what district, we're not talking about that today. That is not on the Agenda. We're simply allocating an amount of money. We are not doing anything more than that. We are not discussing at all about how it's being

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spent, about whether one district gets more than another district, or they all get the exact same amount what kind of programs we're actually going to spend it on. That's not under discussion now. We're just simply discussing moving \$15

million into a different pot of money, so to speak, so that the Federal Government does not get to claw it back so that we know that we have the money so that it's available for various things. And that's

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: What assurances can I give my district that we're going to get any of that money or any way to know who is going to get that money?

all we're doing here today.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: premature. We have to discuss that. We have to see. That's a negotiation.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: How is that premature? We have a number here.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: If you're suggesting, sir, that you're anticipating that we're going to go ahead and do all

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kinds of nefarious things with this money, and none of the money is going to go to the proper programs, I'm sorry, that's incorrect.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: I don't want this to be -- I don't want you to take anything personally. I'm not saying anything nefarious.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: But that is exactly what you're all saying.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: We're saying that there's no guarantee that the minorities are going to get their share.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: There are never guarantees.

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON:

Howard, it could be so easily --

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Before money is is allocated -- and that has not been done -- before it's allocated, you're anticipating that that it's going to be done improperly. That's just incorrect.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Presiding

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Officer, if I will, all we're trying to do is get on the record that the money will be allocated as every other pot of money has been allocated across this party, across this Body in the past, which is 1/19, which is how we have done Hotel/Motel.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: incorrect.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Which is how we have done Hotel/Motel, CRP and the budget, 1/19. That was simply what we were trying to get on the record.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: No. I'm sorry, you're incorrect.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: It is correct.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: No. Let me let me finish what I'm saying. It's incorrect because you're seizing upon specific programs. But there are many other programs -- I'll tell you what, if your district needs a new road and my district doesn't --

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: That's Capital.

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You could apply that to the Capital needs.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Your district needs more social services.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: You can apply that to the Capital and the Operating Budget. On the Capital and the Operating Budget, it is not at 1/19. But every other allocation that has been made directly to this Body, it has been at 1/19. So we're simply trying to get on the record that it will be treated just as any other legislative allocation has been in the past.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. You have made your record. Thank you.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: You're making a statement that we're trying to act as though that you're being nefarious. In the contrary, all we're trying to do, for the record, is established that it will be treated as every other allocation to this Body.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: And you

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have abundantly made clear that is what you wish to have happen.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So what's the answer?

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: I'm sorry. This isn't -- I think we're just running in circles over here.

Legislator Ferretti.

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: Howard, you have to realize you do have that power. You could --

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you, Presiding Officer.

I just want to start. You know, I think I speak for everyone on the dais. We would absolutely love to fund every program for every one of the people, every one of the not for profits businesses, we heard from Mr. John O'Shea, that heartbreaking story about his son. That's absolutely something we would all love to do.

Let me just, out of the ARPA money, Mr. Persich, have we had any cuts since

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Covid started to any Social Services programs?

MR. PERSICH: No, actually, if I may expand on that, we've increased the spending in areas in Social Services for certain services, TANF, SNAP in the '24 budget. In addition, we've increased the the Early Intervention Budget by \$12 million because caseloads have increased.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: So we've increased since Covid?

MR. PERSICH: Yes.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: When the County and the world was shut down, we increased funds for those services?

MR. PERSICH: Yes. That is correct.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Okay.

What about all the other services, Veteran Services; have they been cut?

MR. PERSICH: No. We've not cut any programs.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Any programs, any services during Covid, the worst emergency and shutdown in the history of

the world, did we cut any services?

MR. PERSICH: Not to my knowledge,

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: So I'm going to be a little bit of a mishmash. My comments might not gel. I have some questions for you, some responses, because there was a lot of points made.

I heard a couple times, three times from the Minority Leader, another time from Legislator Solages asking with reference to the money being transferred to the General Fund, is this what this money was intended for? They asked you that three times. I'm sorry, "this is what the money is for", was exactly what you said.

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: To help our communities is what the money is for. But you are --

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: I didn't interrupt you. Excuse me.

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: I think you just misquoted me.

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LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: "This is what the money is for", is that a misquote?

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: No. But it didn't say whether or not it could be transferred to the General Fund. I said that we're supposed to use a good portion of this funding --

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: I didn't interrupt any of you.

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: But you misquoted me, and I have not misquoted you. And if you want me to, I will, because it doesn't sit right.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: What did you say?

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: What I said is that this is what the funding is for.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you. Okay.

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: The ARPA funding is -- listen, you can take most of the money. You're going to take 200 and something million dollars.

You got it --

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Just let me speak.

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: We're asking for is \$1 million per district.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Got it.

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: It has to be on the record. You know why?

We don't control what the Executive

Branch puts down for contracts. Okay. If

I want to put down something for

Veterans, there's no way that I can have any guarantee.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: I know you don't want to let me speak.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: No, I don't, because you know what? You misquoted me, and I'm still correcting it.

We don't have any control after this vote. It's up to the County Executive to decide where this money is spent, because he's the only one who can send down the contracts. So after this vote, we do not

have any say.

It is clear that the Presiding

Officer, if he wished, could basically change the amount, because the
Administration has mentioned that it's really up to him if he wants to ask for it, and could allocate it in the 1.9.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Legislator Solages, did you ask what the money was intended for?

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I asked what was the Legislative intent if passed.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Okay. All right. So now we're clear on the record what you both said.

The statute speaks for itself. Mr. Persich, is tourism specifically listed in the ARPA statute as permissible funds to be spent?

MR. PERSICH: Every one of the programs that we've submitted to this has been vetted and is eligible under the ARPA --

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: How about the

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word, "tourism"; is that in the statute?

MR. PERSICH: Yes, it is.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: How about

dedicating money for lost revenue?

MR. PERSICH: Yes.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Specifically

in the statute?

MR. PERSICH: Yes.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Now, again, multiple members of the Minority referred to the 125th anniversary party. Is there an anniversary party scheduled? One single party scheduled for \$10 million?

MR. PERSICH: I am not aware of that.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: The reality is that's a completely disingenuous interpretation of what that is. Okay. And it's being said so people can cheer in the audience or whatever. Maybe Newsday picks up on it. But that's not the reality. Each one of us have been contacted by the Administration and requested to participate, by offering

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opportunities in our districts where businesses can participate in these events, which quite frankly, are quite profitable for them. The Minority all declined the invitation. That's a disservice to your districts. Okay. These are opportunities for businesses who have been hurting to get significant revenue. You had no problem when there were \$10,000 grants going out to businesses, restaurants, that you were okay with. But when it comes to stimulating the economy with these events, not a singular party. I know you want to minimize it. That's not what this is. Okay. When it comes to that, you said no, thank you. That's a disservice. You should rethink that.

Now, you talked about the surplus.

Okay. We do have a surplus. That's a good thing. But we also have debts that are coming due. Isn't that right, Mr.

Persich?

MR. PERSICH: That is correct.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: And isn't one

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of those debts \$30 million,

approximately, a year as a result of the refinance? Isn't that coming due?

MR. PERSICH: Yes. That's now.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: How many more years?

MR. PERSICH: We have it for the next 15 or so years.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: So just to go
back -- because now we're being overly
conservative, apparently -- but a couple
of years ago, when we were projecting
sales tax to be what they actually turned
out to be, the Minority was saying,
"we're not going to recognize that sales
tax. We need to refinance our debt".

Remember that?

MR. PERSICH: I do, Legislator.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Okay. And as a result of that refinancing -- and refinancing helps you in the short term, but ultimately you pay more money, right? The bill comes due.

MR. PERSICH: You've remortgaged.

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LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: You've remortgaged it for a longer period. That's what refinancing is, right? MR. PERSICH: That is correct.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: And ultimately the grand scheme of things, we will pay more money than if we did not refinance, correct?

MR. PERSICH: Yes.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Okay. And that's starting to come due now, correct.

> (Whereupon, off the record interruption.)

MR. PERSICH: I'm sorry, Legislator.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: I know they like to interrupt. I didn't interrupt them, but just focus on me for a second. So that's coming due now, right?

MR. PERSICH: That is true. Yes. The debt service is now going back and it's going up as a result of the NIFA transaction.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: So coincidentally, when we were sitting here

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and we were being told that our numbers were off, we were right. When I say, "we", the Majority, right?

MR. PERSICH: The sales tax that we received in 2021 was more than what we anticipated in the budget. Yes. And we took that money and put it into a Special Revenue Fund.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Now, we heard from many of the people with regard to the \$40 an hour that they're receiving. It's the lowest in the state. I think that I think we all agree that's not okay. I'm sorry, \$40 for half hour, I apologize. Lowest in the state. I think that's something that we need to address. But just to be clear, can that be addressed with ARPA money?

MR. PERSICH: I don't believe so.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Okay. So bringing it up in the context of this hearing is again, disingenuous. And that would be a recurring expense, correct?

MR. PERSICH: Yes.

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2	LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: And ARPA money
3	is not recurring, right.
4	MR. PERSICH: That is correct.
5	LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: So again,
6	we're muddying the waters.
7	(Whereupon, off the record
8	disruption.)
9	LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: I'm not taking
10	out of context.
11	LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I was speaking to
12	my point
13	LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: I wasn't
14	interrupting you.
15	LEGISLATOR BYNOE: You're taking it
16	out of context.
17	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Listen,
18	everybody. Excuse me.
19	LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I was speaking to
20	the point of being embarrassed in the
21	moment.
22	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Legislator
23	Bynoe. Wait.
24	LEGISLATOR BYNOE: You're spinning
25	it, John.

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1	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 01.22.2023
2	(Whereupon, crosstalk.)
3	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: You will
4	you will have a fair chance to respond.
5	(Whereupon, off the record
6	disruption.)
7	(Whereupon, crosstalk.)
8	LEGISLATOR BYNOE: He's making a
9	point to attack me and my comments.
10	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: I will
11	call a recess.
12	LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I don't care. I
13	actually think it's a good idea.
14	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: You have
15	to learn decorum over here.
16	(Whereupon, off the record
17	disruption.)
18	LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Don't talk about
19	decorum. I've been on this Body for ten
20	years
21	(Whereupon, crosstalk.)
22	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Listen,
23	everyone take a deep breath.
24	LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: That was not

directed at you, Legislator Bynoe.

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Listen, right now Legislator Ferretti has the floor when he's --

> (Whereupon, off the record disruption.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: No, no.

When he is -- when he is done.

(Whereupon, off the record disruption.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: When he is done, whoever wants can respond and say what you feel at that time. But right now he's talking. And when you're talking, I will request that neither he nor anyone else interrupt you.

> (Whereupon, off the record disruption.)

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Just in response, Legislator Bynoe, you're not the only legislator that brought up that point, so nothing personal. It was multiple legislators on your side that brought that up. And I'm responding to that point. I think we're all in

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agreement that that is a disservice. But in the context of this hearing, it, quite frankly, can't be addressed by the ARPA money. So bringing it up during this hearing is, in my opinion, misleading.

Going forward --

(Whereupon, off the record disruption.)

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Legislator, I'm using my time as I feel fit to use it.

> (Whereupon, off the record disruption.)

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: I didn't address you. You addressed me. But am I not going to go back and forth.

The Minority has repeatedly brought up this \$19 million number, yet seems completely perplexed by \$15 million. Are we really to believe that that difference of 4 million is going to cure all the County's problems? The reality is --

> (Whereupon, off the record disruption.)

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LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Can you let me just finish.

The reality is \$15 million can be spent on these different services that we've been funding this entire time, and we are saying we're going to consider funding going forward with this money. I don't see why 19 you seem to be okay with and 15 you want no part of.

Again, lastly, when we talk about the remaining money being put into the General Fund, and we've heard some legislators talking about their campaigns, my campaign, my biggest promise to my residents, my constituents, is I will do whatever I possibly can do to not raise your taxes. I think we need to hold to that promise, and this will be a big step in that direction to make sure we don't have to do that going forward in the out years.

Thank you.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: Can I just respond to that? One last point.

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: It's fine, but one at a time, please. And no one will interrupt.

about what works for his district is
exactly why we want a 1/19 division so
that we can do what's best for our
districts. I didn't make a promise of
taxes to my district, and I didn't make a
promise that you made to your districts.
So that's the whole reason why we're
asking for the 1/19 divide, to make sure
we know where the money's going, and we
work for what's good for our districts.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I just want to say that, Presiding Officer, I took offense to your comment about that I need to learn decorum. Because you've known me for ten years.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Excuse me.

I was not directing that specifically at
one person at all. I was directing to the
entire dais.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Perfect, perfect.

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I'm going to tell you that I'll offer an apology. Because I did speak over my colleague while he was speaking, and I think I probably can count on one hand the times that I've done that. And that's because that I think it really disingenuous that we're sitting here today after having voted without even giving a blink of an eye, a second thought, to \$10 million for an anniversary party. But we're going to sit here today and fight against your colleagues who have known needs, needs in their district, needs pertaining to clean water, needs pertaining to homeless people living on the street, the needs of communities where young people are committing suicide. And I find it disingenuous that we're talking about holding the line on taxes, when people are struggling. This is a humanitarian issue. It's not an issue of politics. It's not an issue of governance. It's about being humanitarians and

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understanding that we have a fundamental responsibility to the communities that we serve. And if any community is not performing at its best potential, then the County itself fails.

And I find it disingenuous that we're sitting here talking about money that have been in our coffers from the time that it has come down from the federal government. Over half of it is sitting here in our coffers. So I find it perplexing that we want to argue or we want to parse out or we shouldn't bring one issue in with another. We're all adults and elected to this Body because we have the ability of being able to understand we're having a conversation. A conversation might bring in issues that may not be able to be served or remediated by this ARPA money, but it's a globe. It's a conversation of global impact, regional impact.

And at the end of the day, Legislator Ferretti, you have the right

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to use your time to speak as you feel freely. I'm just of the mindset that when we're sitting here, we should not be attacking each other. We should not be taking the opportunity to attack each other because it's not about each other, it's about the people we serve.

And so I will apologize for speaking

over you today, because that is not how I conduct myself on this dais. But I'm going to tell you that it is because I have passion about this issue.

Passionate about each one of the issues that was brought up on this floor today, that may not have all been tied to ARPA.

Some of these comments were tied to opioid money. But again, that's not a conversation of today. That's a conversation that's yet delayed and deferred, with the money sitting in the bank not being used toward going toward to fix these issues.

So today I'm going to tell you, yeah, \$4 million, it may not it may not

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fix everything that you see fit. It may not fix the ills of this full Body, but it will go a long way than sitting in the coffers of Nassau County being unused. It goes a long way, a further distance than being used for a \$10 million series of

> (Whereupon, off the record discussion.)

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm sorry. I thought we were using decorum.

parties. It'll go a much longer way.

At the end of the day, Presiding Officer, I don't think the role of the County Administration is to weigh in to how we, this Body, splits our money. They have never weighed into how we split our money down here, how we allocate it. And I don't think the Administration has a role in that. We have the ability, actually, by legislation to call down for \$19 million, but we're deferring to the Administration to be able to set aside money for this Body to allocate to community services. We're deferring to

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them. And because you're deferring to them, that's one thing. But I don't think in any way, shape, form or fashion will I be deferring to the County Administration on how this money is allocated, and I'd ask my colleagues in government to stand with me on that.

Thank you.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I just want to comment on my friend John Ferretti.

One of my pet peeves is I get irritated when there's an attempt to rewrite history. And that happens every day in the newspapers, on TV, both sides of the aisle. I can't stand when the history is attempted to be rewritten. So I just wanted to address John.

The \$10 million for tourism that we voted on last month to be given to the Parks Department, we voted against that because we believed and we still believe that that \$10 million could be better allocated to other things.

You know, Andy, you pointed out some

sort of off the cuff mathematical thing about for every dollar invested in tourism, you get \$3 back; do you recall that?

MR. PERSICH: Yes, I do.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: But you really didn't have any sort of scientific data to back that up. It was really more of an off the cuff type of remark, correct?

MR. PERSICH: There was some methodology to the number.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: You haven't showed us that methodology. We asked you to. We asked you to last time, show us the methodology. Show us how you calculate that. Maybe we can better justify allocating it for tourism. So the reason why we voted against that was not because we don't want to bolster up

Nassau County to the world, sure. But we think the Parks Department has a lot in their budget. Thankfully our County's finances over the past couple of years, that \$10 million could be used

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immediately for some of the programs that are being underfunded now. That's the reason why we voted against it. We didn't vote against it because we're anti-tourism. So I think that's not something that characterizes our position very well.

The other thing, Legislator

Ferretti, we refinanced our debt through
the assistance of NIFA, and that was a
bipartisan measure that helped the County
save millions of dollars. So you can't
talk about it now and say, you know, we
refinanced the debt and now we have to
pay the bill. Well, we knew we had to pay
the bill, but that was an opportunity for
us at a particular vulnerable period of
time to save our county millions and
millions of dollars. So that was a
bipartisan measure that we can't look
back on now and try to point fingers at
that it wasn't the right thing to do.

And then finally, I just want to say, we're talking about 19 million, 15

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million. Let's make no false pretenses about that there's going to be a small pot of gold awaiting each of us down the road for this 15 million or 19 million. To delay the conversation for another day, we make no false pretenses about it. We're not going to have the ability to determine where that money goes and how it goes to each of our respective districts. We're the Minority, it's not going to be really a push comes to shove up to us where that money goes. And that's all we're trying to say here today. We want to be able to know that going in, there's going to be an equal allocation. That's all we're trying to say. Whether it's 15 million or 19 million, we're not objecting in substance to or in principle to the 15 million or the 19 million, but the 19 million makes the math work better. And that's what we're trying to say. In the overall scheme of things, an extra \$4 million out of the \$222 million is a drop in the

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bucket. Add 4 million to it. Make it 19 million. Commit. We want a commitment that it's going to be an equal allocation. Don't say, well, we have to consult with the Administration. We'll talk about it. There's some worthy things that each of you have in your district. No. Let's commit to it today on the record, 19 million. It makes the math work very easy. And and this way there's not going to be any need to discuss it later on.

> PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.

I would ask all of us and I'm including myself not to repeat things. New and different things. Not to say the same thing. We don't have to get out of here at any particular time, we'll take as long as we need. Let's just, as I say, not just run in circles.

I want to just correct one little item that Mr. Drucker spoke about. I was personally in the room when the borrowing was discussed. It was not strictly

bipartisan. This was shoved down our throats, literally. The refinance borrowing. Borrowed a great deal of additional money. It was shoved down our throats, totally shoved down our throats by NIFA.

(Whereupon, off the record discussion.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Andy was there. Andy was working with a different Administration at the time. Don't blame Andy. Andy is doing his job the way he's told by his principal. He's doing it fine. He does the right job.

But it was shoved down our throats
by NIFA, which deliberately
misinterpreted the sales tax receipts at
the time. They estimated a number that
was mathematically impossible at the
time. And I pointed it out, personally.
And we really had no choice. It resulted
in us borrowing, over time, hundreds of
millions of dollars additional. That's
what it's going to cost the County

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overtime. But that's neither here nor there for this particular thing.

Mr. Ferretti, I think you want -LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Real quick.
Howard doesn't want us talking in
circles, but I'm going to for a second.

Just to add on to what the Presiding Officer was just saying, he may have said it. They indicated they would not approve the budget, they being NIFA, unless that refinance happened. So we were faced, despite our objections, as to the refinancing and the necessity for it, we were faced with literally shutting the County down if we weren't to go along with it. That's ultimately why we did it. Look, there were benefits to it. There's no question that were benefits to it, and there's benefits to refinancing your home and other things. But there are also detriments to that. And those detriments are coming. We're about to foot the bill for that right now.

Legislator Drucker, just to correct

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one other thing. With the tourism allocation, the Minority did not vote against it. They abstained. They didn't vote for it. No vote against it is a no vote. There's a reason you abstained.

(Whereupon, off the record

disruption.)

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Listen, I have a great deal of respect for all of you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: One at a time, please.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: All I can tell you is, you're critical of the tourism application. You didn't vote for it or against it. But the reality is, it's an opportunity for our communities to have a great stimulus to their economy. I inherited Farmingdale, for example.

> (Whereupon, off the record disruption.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: One at a time.

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: I'm wrong? Did you vote? Did you did you vote?

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: No, no.

We're not doing a back and forth. When he's finished, then you'll have a chance to say so. Just wait, please.

(Whereupon, off the record discussion.)

LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: So it's my understanding that one of the reasons that this money was given to us was to stimulate our local economy after Covid. That's what the purpose of this tourism is. To characterize it as a party, in my opinion, is not correct. And so my point, and I apologize if anyone took offense to it because none was intended, but my point is that all of us should be embracing that, because in my opinion, it's in the best interest of our districts and our communities to get this money and these events in our districts so they can recognize that benefit financially. That was my point.

Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Anyone

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have anything new or different?

feel like we're very close.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Something new. I make a motion to go into Executive Session where I feel like we're very close to making a negotiation here. I

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: I think your feelings are probably incorrect. Legislator Walker.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: I just wanted to say one thing about about monies being equally allotted, and I know it's across the board with our CRPs and so on and so forth. But any of the ARPA money that was spent so far didn't go equally across our districts. It did not go equally across many districts. I'm not saying my district didn't get any money, but other other districts got a lot more, for whatever reason, for the fact that they needed it more. They needed to address things in their district more so than I had to address something in my own district. Now all of a sudden -- I never

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got the idea the \$15 million was going to be spread equally amongst 19 of us because someone might need something more than I do. We all need something, let's be honest. But someone might need something more than my district does. Many of the organizations that I spoke to that spoke today, I was so happy to hear from them, but I've never even heard of them before. And perhaps because they're not in my district, I don't know about them. And you might not know about some of the things that are in my district.

So I really just wanted to make that statement that we did not disperse of that equally before. So I don't really I never thought about the fact that this was going to be dispersed equally, whether it was 15 or 19 or 12 or 10, whatever it was, it wasn't equally spent across the district. So I really just wanted to make that statement.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Anyone else?

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MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON:

I'm going to have to correct the record.

So he said that we didn't vote for it or against it. The truth of the matter is it went through Committees as an abstention. And then once we really heard about the gala and all this other stuff, we all voted against the 10 million.

I just want to say one more thing.

Rose, I respect you and I understand what you're saying, but what you just said is absolutely the reason why we want to have a 1/19 breakup. Whether or not it's for the 15 million or the 19 million, it's for exactly what you just said. There are things in my district at the County

Executive has never, ever heard about. I have no control over what contracts he does. None. And not only that, they probably won't do them if I ask for them.

I have been told that that's what's happening with my CRPs.

So the bottom line is, the whole idea of it is we trust each 19 of us to

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know our districts. And with this money, we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to take it and give it to the groups and to the areas that we all know are in desperate need of it. I'm sure you could find enough in your district to do it.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON: No, I'm not done yet, Howard. I want to say one more thing, Howard. I had a lot of hope, and unfortunately, it's diminishing. I think that you kind of like to turn things off and get through something. It's not personal, but I had hope that you would be completely -- if you don't know the answer, then we can we can look into it.

For instance, with the 19 million, you have the right to say, to put on the record, it's up to us to say it's going to be divided -- or 15 million -- it's going to be divided by 19 people. You have that power. Now if you don't want that power, I understand if you're going to get in trouble from upstairs, I

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understand. It's not an easy seat that you're sitting in. It's not an easy seat that I'm sitting in. But we both took these positions not to be comfortable, but to do the right thing. The power is yours, you cannot convince anyone that it is not your power. You don't have the power to up it to 19. That we do need the administration to approve. Honestly, a lot of that was the number because it was just an easier number to deal with. We each have \$1 million. But if it's 15, Howard, this is completely on you. You can say right now it is going to be divided by the 19 of us, and that is all that we're really asking for. Because to be honest with you, I've been told left and right as of last Friday that I'm not getting things that other people are getting. That's not fair. You know, we're dealing with the situation that is

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: We got it.

not fair.

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MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON:

No, you don't have it. And stop cutting me off. It's very rude. Because this is extremely important. This is the one time.

In my opinion, you other legislators, I really wish that you would just think about this, because you're not going to have much control over where the money goes either. I'm telling you, I've been here for so long, we've never had anything like this before. We'll never have it again. You can give it to your fire districts. You can give it to whoever you really feel needs it. Could you imagine having that as a legislator? This is an incredible opportunity. This is what this money is for. If you vote this right now, you're also giving up control. The bottom line is we're not going to have this come back to us. Once we vote for this, it's gone. And it's going to only be whatever it is sent down.

I know you guys. I know a lot of you. I know you're good people. I really can't express to you enough how important it is that we maybe push back a little and say, hey, you know what? We're going to be the ones who decide this. Even if one of you did it, I would feel that there was some hope. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Let me quickly respond and then I have a few slips for public comment.

First of all, I have a little calculator here, and I can divide 15 by 19 as well. The math is not hard; that's easy, but that's not the issue. I fundamentally do not agree, personally do not agree, that it's a sensible way to allocate things. I don't think so. As I said before and as Legislator Walker so nicely put it as well, this is not intended as something where each legislator gets to just allocate it for whatever he or she thinks is important in that district. It is a countywide

NC FULL LEGISLATURE 01.22.2023 consideration for each amount of money. Whether or not I have the power is not particularly relevant. I don't agree. Let me go ahead and start calling. Thank you, Andy. *****

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Mr. Paul Gibson.

MR. GIBSON: Good afternoon. My name is Paul Gibson, 869 Winter Avenue in Uniondale.

I am the past president of the

Community Land Trust, and accordingly,

I'm going to allocate my time to the

current vice president of the Land Trust,

Jeanine Maynard.

MS. MAYNARD: Good afternoon. My name is Jeanine Maynard. I am the vice president of Uniondale Community Land Trust and we have put in a request for some of the ARPA funding that we understand was in abundance and not allocated.

Before I do that, I want to set up a context for this and say that last semester we were working with Hofstra fellows in our community organization, and one of them was a public health master's program fellow. And he brought down the data that Nassau County's life

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expectancy is 81.9 years. Life

expectancy in Uniondale is 73.5 years.

That's 81.9 compared to 73.5. So when you

ask where are the Covid impacted

communities, we're saying it's cost us

life. It's cost us resources. It's cost

us seniors that help with childcare. It's

cost us in many, many ways. The medical

expenses have hurt our homeowners. When

we look at that instability, one of the

things we found is that through October,

we were looking at an average of 440 or

more homes that had been in some form of

lis pendens under some threat of their

stable homeownership. So homeowners are

needing help.

In addition to that, we were looking at stats that approximately 4 to 6 homes every month were coming up as having been foreclosed, and somewhere between 4 and 9 homes were on the auction block. So I'm giving you that scenario to frame some of

A letter was submitted and I'm going

what we're trying to do here.

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to read this from our president:

"I'm writing to express direct community funding needs on behalf of Uniondale Community Land Trust, a not for profit organization located in Legislator Siela Bynoe's district.

We, the members of UCLT, understand that the Federal Government is funded Nassau County, a large sum of money under the American Rescue Plan initiative. However, to date, the Administration has not earmarked sufficient funds to deliver this critical support to worthy community organizations. We're advocating for a significantly impactful portion of ARPA funding aid to be delivered to the people and programs directly impacted by the pandemic. This includes access to stable and affordable housing -- (buzzer).

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: I'm going to let you go a little bit further because both of you put in separate slips. I'll let you go ahead.

MS. MAYNARD: Thank you very much.

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"...The ARPA funding should help improve resilience in meaningful work of local not-for-profit organizations, residents, businesses within Nassau County.

Specifically, we're referring to the funding of projects and programs undertaken and planned by UCLT for the provision of permanently affordable, completely renovated homes and resiliency services to the community.

We're requesting funding to support our work in areas such as improving local security, resilience and safety, addressing derelict and abandoned homes structures. We're hoping to acquire three facilities from recent lists of such properties, or take three from the active listing of foreclosed and condemned properties, or auctioned and make them permanently affordable.

When you talk about return on your investment, the homes that come into the land trust remain permanently affordable.

It doesn't sunset like so many of the other affordable housing initiatives, so that this continues to provide stable resource for the county. And also, it becomes permanently affordable homes for homeowners at 50 to 80% AMI.

We also want to institute CERT training initiative for the community residents, which will improve stability in hard times.

Environmental preventive health responses are part of it also. We've been providing water pitches for households to deal with microplastics and PFOA, PFAs and one for dioxane in our County's water conditions.

We want to share equity in bringing two homes up to current environmental codes. Our community has homes that are aged and have asbestos and other conditions, which also put health conditions at risk. We'd like to be able to make that opportunity for legacy homeowners of ten years or more.

We also want capacity development for the organization itself and staff infrastructure --

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Ms.

Maynard, you are coming towards the end?

MS. MAYNARD: Yes. This is it.

-- so that we have vacancies to fill among our staff that allow us to do this work.

Our hope is that if fairly funded,
this program becomes a demonstration
project for all of Nassau County about
affordable homeownership and sustainable
homeownership, and an investment now that
pays back the County with a stock of
reasonably affordable homes that are
environmentally correct for the entire
future going forward. It's a resource we
desperately need, and it's a
demonstration project."

Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.

Christiano Marcello.

MR. LAROCK: Hi. Good afternoon. My

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name is Fenol LaRock. I am executive director of a nonprofit Organization, Universal Interactions.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Who's Christiano?

MR. LAROCK: Yes, we're together.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay.

MR. LAROCK: We are the Long Island Herald Persons of the year. Being so we have done great events within the communities. We have done a basketball tournament, 64 teams, over 250 players a days; Thanksgiving dinner where we fed over 300 people; back to school giveaway where we gave book bags, pens, pencils to over 400 kids; we have done toys giveaways as well to kids that are less fortunate.

We are here to do a great change within this community. We understand that with the funds allocated to -- we want to do something great, which is, you know, do events, right? We know that doing events is a great thing within our

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community, right? So we know that
generating avenues where we could do
great events such as concerts, carnivals,
which we can make money and still do
great things within the community to,
give back to the communities. So
Christiano is going to explain more

towards it.

MR. MARCELLO: So we came up with a true idea that could go with both parties to understand that you could use these funds that's for the 125th anniversary and use it to make sure that all the money made could be allocated to each district. So you are able to, instead of looking at this money to just be spent, use the money to be made and then divided to each district after it's made.

We are able to organize huge events through our great marketing skills so we know how to make these events and fundraise that will go towards mental health, substance abuse, senior housing.

These are two things that I actually been

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through personally. I've been through an anxiety, so I had suffered through anxiety for years. I know how important it is to use this money to be put for this type of issues.

We can put our idea to use our great marketing skills and to do these huge events with Nassau County as a partner and making sure that it's allocated to each district, that could be put into actually using these funds to go straight to however you spend. Such as like the firehouse and everything. And to be well spent through marketing.

MR. LAROCK: We could do the events such as a carnival and the concerts where we could get big name artists, where we could generate large amount of money, which both parties can still come together.

Our mission statement is that we have togetherness, right? We are Universal Interactions. We want to make sure that we still do things together as

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a community, no matter what race, color, necessities (sic) and such things like that. So that's why we are here to want to partner up with y'all. So we could do these events where we can still find ways to still do things within the district, and also do ways where we can allocate funds towards the things that we need, such as substance abuse, you know, drug addiction, mental health as well.

MR. MARCELLO: So just to conclude, we would like to use the 125 year anniversary as a way to fundraise more money and make more money out of it and distribute it to each district.

Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you. Who's your legislator?

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you. Ι am. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. So please talk with your legislator and I'm sure he'll do a fine job of putting it forth.

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LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you very much, gentlemen, for coming today. We look forward to working with you.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Yes. Thank you.

Elsie Saint Louis.

Thank you.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Elsie Saint Louis represents HAUP, a very important non-profit. They left. They waited here for quite a long time. But I believe they put their statement in writing and will provide it to the Body.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.

I have one more from Spiro Tsirkes. They left.

I would like the legislators to take their seats.

> (Whereupon, off the record discussion.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: We'll have a five minute recess. I'm going to call it in five minutes.

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1	NC FULL LEGISLATURE 01.22.2023
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3	(Whereupon, recess,
4	4:14-4:22 p.m.)
5	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All
6	legislators, please take your seats so
7	that we can proceed.
8	Mr. Darcy, would you be so kind as
9	to call the roll?
10	MR. DARCY: Legislator Davis?
11	LEGISLATOR DAVIS: No.
12	MR. DARCY: Legislator Strauss?
13	LEGISLATOR STRAUSS: Yes.
14	CLERK PULITZER: I'll take over.
15	Presiding Officer?
16	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Yes.
17	CLERK PULITZER: Ms. Pilip?
18	PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: She is not
19	here.
20	CLERK PULITZER: Samantha Goetz.
21	LEGISLATOR GOETZ: Yes.
22	CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.
23	Mr. Kennedy?
24	LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Yes.
25	CLERK PULITZER: Mr. McKevitt?

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2	LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Yes.
3	CLERK PULITZER: Mr. Mullaney?
4	LEGISLATOR MULLANEY: Yes.
5	CLERK PULITZER: Mr. Ferretti?
6	LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Yes.
7	CLERK PULITZER: Mr. Gaylor?
8	LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Yes.
9	CLERK PULITZER: Ms. Walker?
10	LEGISLATOR WALKER: Yes.
11	CLERK PULITZER: Mr. Giuffre?
12	LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Yes.
13	CLERK PULITZER: Mr. Giangregorio?
14	LEGISLATOR GIANGREGORIO: Yes.
15	CLERK PULITZER: Ms. Bynoe?
16	LEGISLATOR BYNOE: No.
17	CLERK PULITZER: Has Mr. Davis been
18	called?
19	(Whereupon, confirmation of
20	Mr. Davis being called is made
21	off the record.)
22	CLERK PULITZER: Mr. Solages?
23	LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: No.
24	CLERK PULITZER: Ms.
25	DeRiggi-Whitton?

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MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON:

I'm going to explain my vote, and it's because of something that happened on Friday where there was a meeting and the Deputy County Executive was there, and I have 11 CRPs, and my staff was told that they're not doing anything for me, for my CRPs, because they didn't like my column about getting the opioid funding out. So because I'm trying to push the opioid funding out, they're denying fire departments and seven first responder CRPs.

So my trust is a real issue with this Administration. And that is why I asked for you guys just to consider allocating a certain amount for each district. It could have been 15. It could have been 19. It really was an easy process. It would just ensure that everyone is represented. And I'm sorry to say that this was really, in my opinion, to give all the control to the Executive Department as to what contracts come down

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for your own districts, just doesn't make sense to me. I vote no.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.

Ms. Mule?

LEGISLATOR MULE: No.

CLERK PULITZER: Mr. Drucker?

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I vote no. I'm also just going to briefly explain. We're looking for a commitment here today. The 15 million or the 19 million, it's an insignificant sum when you consider what what we're talking about, the overall allocation of funds. We need a commitment. There's no guarantee what's going to happen down the road. And this is purely a legislative function. The Administration should not be involved in this particular decision today. And for

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.

Mr. Koslow?

that reason, I'm voting no.

LEGISLATOR KOSLOW: I echo what

Legislator Drucker said, and I vote no.

CLERK PULITZER: By a vote of 12

=NC FULL LEGISLATURE 01.22.2023 =1 yes, five no -- I am sorry. Excuse me. 2 3 Eleven to seven. PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All right. 5 The item passes by a vote of 11 to 7. 6 Mr. Giangregorio moves to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Ferretti. 8 All those in favor of adjourning? 9 (Whereupon, all members of 10 the Full Legislature present 11 respond in favor with, "Aye.) 12 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Any 13 opposed? 14 (Whereupon, no verbal 15 response.) 16 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Nobody is 17 opposed. 18 19 (Whereupon, the Full 20 Legislature meeting is 21 adjourned, 4:28 p.m.) 22 ***** 23 24 25

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2	CERTIFICATE
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4	STATE OF NEW YORK)
5	: SS.:
6	County of Nassau)
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8	I, KAREN LORENZO, a Notary Public
9	for and within the State of New York, do
10	hereby certify:
11	That the above is a correct
12	transcription of my stenographic notes.
13	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
14	set my hand this 22nd day of January, 2024.
15	
16	<u>Karen Lorenzo</u>
17	Karen Lorenzo
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